MINUTES OF THE MEETING

OF THE

GENERAL COUNCIL

OF THE

EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED CHURCH

Hotel Cleveland, Cleveland, Ohio, February 11-13, 1958

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RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

General Council members present:

Dr. James E. Wagner, Chairman; Dr. Sheldon E. Mackey, Secretary; Mr. Allan G. Aigler, Mr. Samuel C. Bond, Jr., Mrs. E. Roy Corman, Dr. Donald C. Dearborn, Dr. John W. Flucke, Dr. Albert G. Gonser, Dr. Ben M. Herbster, Dr. F. A. Keck, Dr. Erwin R. Koch, Dr. Emil N. Krafft, Dr. Willard A. Kratz, Mrs. Milton C. Lang, Dr. John W. Mueller, Mr. J. Milton Rasche, Dr. John L. Schmidt (resigned), Mr. Harold F. Webber, Mr. Joseph C. Wetzel.

Advisory members present:

Dr. L. W. Goebel, President Emeritus of the Church; Dr. Purd E. Deitz (National Missions), Dr. Dobbs F. Ehlman (International Missions), Dr. Fred D. Wentzel (Christian Education and Publication), Dr. Robert C. Kienle and Dr. Henry I. Stahr (Business Management), Dr. Silas P. Bittner (Pensions and Relief), Dr. Fred C. Schweinfurth (Evangelism), Dr. Huber F. Klemme (Christian Social Action), Dr. Otto R. Gerber (Higher Education), Rev. Paul E. Strauch (Stewardship), Dr. Reginald H. Helfferich (World Service), Dr. Edward W. Brueseke and Dr. Harold H. Wilke (Church and Ministry), Dr. Carl W. Klein, Dr. L. C. T. Miller, Dr. Perry L. Smith and Mr. Matthias K. Schwarz (United Promotion), Dr. J. Kenneth Kohler (Churchmen's Brotherhood), Miss Frances Kapitzky and Miss Florence A. Partridge (Women's Guild), Dr. Theodore C. Braun (THE MESSENGER), Rev. Otto Press (DER FRIEDENSBOTE), Dr. Alexander Toth (REFORMATOSOK LAPJA).

Visitors present at one or more sessions:

Dr. Louis H. Gunnemann, Rev. Walter K. Klein, Mr. Charles H. Lockyear, Mr. William R. Pelster, Mrs. J. Milton Rasche, Rev. Carl F. Sturm.

Tuesday, February 11

The General Council convened at 9:33 a.m.

At President Wagner's invitation, President Emeritus L. W. Goebel conducted the devotional service, choosing as his text Col. 3:13-17, with special emphasis upon the phrase "And be thankful."

The attendance was noted. Dr. John R. C. Haas was absent because of illness. Dr. John L. Schmidt, whose resignation from the Council because of his election as full-time President of South Illinois Synod had become effective only a few days ago, was present by invitation of President Wagner.

Dr. Wagner greeted the members and advisory members of the General Council. He extended a special welcome to Dr. Willard A. Kratz, who had been elected by the General Council to complete the unexpired term of Dr. Robert C. Stanger, to Rev. Paul E. Strauch, who had been chosen by the Commission on Stewardship to succeed Dr. James W. Bright as its Executive Secretary, and to Miss Frances Kapitzky, the newly-elected President of the Women's Guild. He then extended a cordial greeting to the visitors who were present.

AGENDA

Secretary Mackey presented the agenda for the meeting. The General Council

VOTED: to adopt the agenda as presented.
58-2-GC1

HOURS FOR THE SESSIONS

The Secretary presented a tentative time schedule for the meeting. By common consent an executive session was made the order of the day for 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday. After further consideration of the schedule it was

VOTED: to hold an open session on Wednesday, from 7:30 p.m. until 9:30 p.m.
58-2-GC2

It was then

VOTED: to adopt the schedule as amended.
58-2-GC3

MINUTES

Secretary Mackey presented the minutes of the meeting held September 17-19, 1957, and stated that no items need be singled out for discussion. The General Council

VOTED: to adopt the minutes as presented.
58-2-GC4

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

Dr. Mackey presented as the report of the Administrative Committee the minutes of a meeting held November 20, 1957, and drew attention to items requiring consideration by the General Council.

Nominations for General Council (p. 3). It was

VOTED: that the matter of filling the two vacancies in the membership
58-2-GC5 of the General Council be dealt with in executive session.

General Synod meetings in 1959 (pp. 3-4). Dr. Mackey reported that the Administrative Committee of the Executive Council of the United Church of Christ had received with tentative approval the proposal that in 1959 the General Synod of the United Church meet immediately after the General Synod of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, and in the same locality. Since Elmhurst College had invited the Evangelical and Reformed General Synod to meet on its campus, he had discussed with President Stanger the possibility of holding both General Synod meetings there and had been informed that the facilities of the college would not be adequate for a meeting of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ. He would therefore investigate the possibility of holding that meeting in Chicago, at Northwestern University.

If this could be done, it would satisfy the desire of the Congregational Christian leaders that the meeting be held in the Midwest, preferably Chicago, and the desire of the Evangelical and Reformed leaders that it be held on a college campus. On the other hand, the fact that the university maintains a summer school might create a difficulty with regard to the time for the two General Synod meetings. There is general disapproval of the Labor Day weekend as the meeting time, so an earlier date must be chosen. Possibly both General Synods will have to meet elsewhere, and in the same place. Under the circumstances, Elmhurst College would not take exception to that arrangement. No decision will be made, however, until all possibilities as to place and date have been investigated.

The General Council

VOTED: to adopt the minutes of the Administrative Committee meeting held
58-2-GC6 November 20, 1957.

COMMITTEE ON THE REPORTS OF THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY

Dr. Wagner announced that Dr. Flucke, Mr. Bond and Dr. Dearborn had been appointed as the Committee on the Reports of the President and the Secretary.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

President Wagner presented his report, substituting a review of the various items for a reading of the entire text. (See Appendix 1.)

Co-Secretary of the United Church of Christ (Pres. Report, p. 10). Commenting upon the resignation of Dr. Fred S. Buschmeyer as Co-Secretary of the United Church of Christ, Dr. Wagner stated that Rev. Nathaniel M. Guptill, having succeeded Dr. Buschmeyer as Associate Minister and Secretary of the General Council of the Congregational Christian Churches, would be nominated for election by the Executive Council of the United Church to fill the vacancy in the office of Co-Secretary.

The report of the President was referred to the Committee on the Reports of the President and the Secretary.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

Secretary Mackey presented his report. (See Appendix 3.)

Job Analysis (Sec. Report, p. 10). Dr. Mackey stated that the Committee on Correlation and Promotion, at a meeting held on February 10, had amended item 4 of the analysis of the duties of the Director of the Church Finance Advisory Service of the Department of United Promotion by substituting "February 1" for "January 15" and by inserting "congregations of" before "all synods," following which it had adopted the report as amended.

Dates for the next annual meeting of the General Council. The Secretary presented as an additional item of his report a recommendation that the General Council establish February 2-5, 1959, as the dates for its next annual meeting.

The General Council

VOTED: 58-2-GC7 to adopt the Data Concerning Ministers and Congregations of the Church (Sec. Report, pp. 8-9), to defer action on the Job Analysis (Sec. Report, p. 10) pending the report of the Committee on Correlation and Promotion, and to refer the remainder of the Secretary's report, including the item presented verbally, to the Committee on the Reports of the President and the Secretary.

MR. M. K. SCHWARZ

At this point Mr. Matthias K. Schwarz, Director of the Church Finance Advisory Service of the Department of United Promotion, was introduced to the General Council by Dr. Klein.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Treasurer Keck read his report. (See Appendix 4.) The General Council

VOTED: 58-2-GC8 to receive the report and to refer to the Committee on Finance and Budget any matters requiring special attention.

Checks received from congregations. Dr. Keck stated that due to his election as interim Treasurer of the United Church of Christ he had been receiving from the treasurers of Evangelical and Reformed congregations checks made payable to him as Treasurer of the United Church of Christ. Since the financial system of the Evangelical and Reformed Church must continue in operation as long as the "structures resolutions" are in effect, all checks sent to him by the treasurers of Evangelical and Reformed congregations should be made payable to him as Treasurer of the Evangelical and Reformed Church.

REPORT OF THE COUNSELOR

Dr. Mueller reported verbally on matters with which he had been concerned as counselor of the Church.

First Church, Portland, Oregon. Dr. Mueller stated that the trial of the suit instituted by Pacific Northwest Synod against First Church, Portland, Oregon, had been postponed until a date in March and would probably be postponed again.

United Church of Christ. Commenting upon the suit which had been instituted against the Congregational Christian General Council and the Evangelical and Reformed Church by opponents of the union, Dr. Mueller stated that the defendants' motions that the suit be dismissed would be argued before a Federal Court in New York City on or about February 17. If the suit is dismissed, the plaintiffs will file an appeal. If the suit is not dismissed, there will be a long trial.

General Council's policy regarding federated churches and united churches. The counselor stated that he and President Wagner had been helping isolated congregations of the Evangelical and Reformed Church to federate or unite with neighboring Congregational Christian congregations in a manner which was in keeping with the General Council's policy regarding federated churches and

united churches. Both the President and the counselor believe that the policy should be reexamined and possibly revised.

The report of the counselor was received with appreciation.

By common consent the General Council's statement of policy regarding federated churches and united churches was referred to the Administrative Committee for study and report to the Council next September concerning editorial revision of the text.

PENSIONS AND RELIEF

Dr. Silas P. Bittner, Executive Secretary of the Board of Pensions and Relief, presented a report on behalf of the Board. Item 4 was amended by substituting "suggesting" for "requesting." The amended report was then received. As amended and received it is as follows:

1. Treasurer Keck has made payment of $5,920.00 to be credited as 8% premiums on base salary of $4,000.00 for 19 chaplains in the Ministers' Retirement Annuity Fund for the year 1957.

2. The Lay Workers' Prior Service Plan had no retirements or withdrawals during the year. The account was credited with 3% interest for the year, and reserves as of January 1, 1958 are $34,778.37.

3. Seven widows received insurance checks of $1,000.00 each, three received checks of $500.00 each, and 16 received checks of $200.00 each, making a total of $11,700.00 to 26 widows.

4. Almost 800 congregations have now complied with the General Synod resolution suggesting payment of the total 11% premium to the Ministers' Retirement Annuity Fund.

5. We can report that the assets of the Board are now over thirteen million dollars.

The General Council recessed from 12:15 p.m. until 2:07 p.m.

REPORT ON MAGYAR SYNOD

Dr. Perry L. Smith, National Field Secretary of the Department of United Promotion, reported upon his Every Congregation Visitation in Magyar Synod. (See Appendix 5.) Stressing the interest and appreciation with which he had been received by the congregations and pastors of the Magyar Synod, and also their very evident need for fuller identification with the Evangelical and Reformed Church, he expressed a hope that the General Council, through appropriate channels, would initiate a plan whereby this part of our constituency would be integrated into the Evangelical and Reformed Church to the fullest extent and be made ready ultimately to play a significant part in the United Church of Christ.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE REPORTS OF THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY

With the Second Vice-President, Dr. Mueller, presiding, the report of the Committee on the Reports of the President and the Secretary was presented by Dr. Schmidt.

Items 3, 7 and 31 were marked "attended to."

Item 6 was withdrawn by the Committee.

Action upon item 21 was deferred pending the report of the Committee on Finance and Budget. On Wednesday evening it was deleted by virtue of the adoption of item 18 of the report of the Committee on Finance and Budget.

Item 30 was deleted.

The elimination of items 6, 21 and 30 necessitated the renumbering of other items of the report.

Items 11 and 15 were referred to the Administrative Committee.

Items 28 and 32 were amended and adopted as amended.

Item 4 was adopted, with a reference of part "e" to the Committee on Finance and Budget. On Wednesday evening, part "e" was deleted by virtue of the adoption of item 22 of the report of the Committee on Finance and Budget.

Item 19 was adopted, but on Wednesday evening was amended by inserting, as the first sentence, item 17 of the report of the Committee on Finance and Budget.

All other items presented by the Committee on the Reports of the President and the Secretary were adopted without change.

The following new item (#27 in these minutes) was inserted in the Committee's report: "The General Council approves The Samaritan nursing home, Rochester, Minnesota, as a benevolent institution of the Church, the Commission on Benevolent Institutions having taken favorable action upon the application of The Samaritan for membership in the Commission."

Following the adoption of item 27 it was

VOTED: to adopt as a whole the report of the Committee on the Report of
58-2-GC9 the President.

Following the adoption of item 35 it was

VOTED: to adopt as a whole the report of the Committee on the Report of
58-2-GC10 the Secretary.

As adopted by the General Council the report of the Committee on the Reports of the President and the Secretary is as follows:

President's Report

1. The General Council expresses its gratitude for the devotion and zeal with which the President of the Church has performed the complex and demanding duties and responsibilities of his position. We are especially mindful of his service to our missionary program and to the Church at large by his recent visit to Africa and by his comprehensive report on that trip. (See Appendix 2.) We pray that he may continue to be given guidance and strength as we look to him for his statesmanlike leadership in the days and years to come.

2. The General Council shares the satisfaction of the President of the Church in the response of our people to the challenge of the Advance Program in contributing 87% of the apportionment goal. We also share his faith that this percentage will improve with each succeeding year of the triennium.

3. The General Council refers to the Committee on Finance and Budget the disposition of the unallocated overage.

4. (a) The General Council defers until the 1959 General Synod the selection of delegates to the next Assembly of the World Council of Churches.

(b) The General Council authorizes an Evangelical and Reformed delegation of six persons to the 1959 General Council of the World Reformed-Presbyterian Alliance and refers to the Administrative Committee the selection of this number from our delegation to the North American Area Council of the Alliance.

(c) The General Council approves the plan whereby the Churchmen's Brotherhood will assume responsibility for supporting the program of the National Council's General Department of United Church Men in the amount of $1,000 annually.

(d) The General Council commends the National Council's Department of Racial and Cultural Relations for its special Southern Project on Race Relations and refers to the Committee on Finance and Budget the matter of again contributing $2,000 to the Department in support of this Project.

5. The General Council notes with approval the progress reports of the various study committees authorized by the General Synod and the General Council.

6. The General Council appreciates the detailed report on the United Church of Christ submitted by the President of the Church.

7. The General Council approves the Administrative Committee's appointment of the Evangelical and Reformed members of the Committee on Realignment of Synods and Conferences.

8. The General Council refers to the Committee on Finance and Budget the following matters:

(a) the contribution of our Church toward the 1958 budget of the Office of Communication;

(b) an additional contribution of $5,000 to the treasury of the United Church for the remainder of 1957;

(c) a contribution of $25,000 to the treasury of the United Church for the year 1958;

(d) payment of the travel expenses of the members of the acting administrative bodies of the agencies operating for the United Church of Christ.

9. The General Council concurs in the action of the Executive Council of the United Church of Christ:

> That where a congregation of one communion is geographically isolated from the main concentration of its association or synod but within a concentration of congregations of the other communion, synods, associations and conferences are urged to encourage such congregations to assume associate relationships with them for purposes of fellowship in life and witness; but, in accord with the "structures resolutions," responsibilities of vote and support of missionary and benevolence budgets should be scrupulously reserved to the synod or association and conference to which the congregation belongs.

10. The Committee recommends that discussion of the matter of the future of Mission House Seminary be deferred pending the report of the Committee to Study the Programs and Facilities of the Theological Seminaries.

11. The General Council is of the opinion that the property reversion clause in By-Law 16 does not apply to any heretofore independent church which, as a first step toward becoming part of the United Church of Christ, seeks affiliation with the Evangelical and Reformed Church.

12. The General Council notes that the Executive Committee of the Board of National Missions will meet in Seattle, Washington, February 17-18. The Council encourages the Board to continue and expand its efforts to strengthen the churches of the Pacific Northwest Synod in their relation to the Evangelical and Reformed Church.

13. The General Council rejoices in the cooperative planning by the Board of International Missions and the Commission on World Service, and urges these two agencies to seek out all areas in which they can work together to strengthen the witness of the Evangelical and Reformed Church throughout the world.

14. The General Council approves the election of Mr. Oscar C. Jud to complete the unexpired term of Mr. Walter Meck as a member of the Commission on Benevolent Institutions, the election of Mrs. Guy A. Benchoff to complete the unexpired term of Mrs. Clair V. Rhodes as a member of the Commission on Evangelism, and the election of Rev. C. Kent Chidester to complete the unexpired term of Mr. John Fesperman as a member of the Committee on Liturgics.

15. The General Council approves the application of Robert E. Schroeder to be received as a Candidate for Ordination with the provision that he must serve at least one year under Temporary License to establish his eligibility for ordination.

16. The General Council expresses to Dr. James W. Bright its appreciation for his work with the Commission on Stewardship for the past twelve years and its satisfaction at the arrangements whereby he will now devote his full time to the Commission on Evangelism.

17. The General Council welcomes Rev. Paul E. Strauch to his new position as Executive Secretary of the Commission on Stewardship and wishes him will in his new responsibilities.

18. The General Council refers to the Historical Society the consideration of some form of celebration of the 400th anniversary of the Heidelberg Catechism, and suggests that they avail themselves of the counsel of Dr. Charles E. Schaeffer in this matter.

19. The General Council cannot grant tuition reduction to undergraduate students of social work in our colleges, since it does not control the scholarship policy of our educational institutions. The General Council requests the Commission on Church and Ministry, through its Committees on Life Enlistment and Student Care, to study the question of financial assistance to students of social work and to report to the General Council.

20. The General Council refers the appeal of the United States Conference of the World Council of Churches for a contribution to the erection of the Protestant Pavilion at the Brussels Universal and International Exposition to the Committee on Finance and Budget with the hope that some means may be found of making an appropriate contribution.

21. The General Council expresses its appreciation to Dr. William L. Rest for the publication of his booklet entitled "A Manual of Placement Procedures in the Evangelical and Reformed Church ..."

22. The General Council acknowledges the loss to the denomination in the passing of Mr. David A. Miller of Allentown, Pennsylvania, a member of the General Council from 1957 to 1953. Few laymen have contributed more to the service of the Kingdom of God through their leadership in the Church and their practice of the Christian vocation. The General Council extends its sympathy to the members of his family and rejoices with them in his entry into the Church Triumphant.

23. The General Council misses the presence of Dr. John R. C. Haas who, because of illness,is prevented from attending this meeting of the Council. We are united in the prayer that he may be granted a speedy and complete recovery, and we request the Secretary of the Church to extend our greetings and good wishes to him.

24. The General Council welcomes to its membership Dr. Willard A. Kratz and looks forward to the contributions which he will make to its deliberations.

25. The General Council accepts with regret the resignations of Dr. Roy W. Limbert and Dr. John L. Schmidt, and expresses its appreciation to them for their invaluable services to the General Council and to the Church. We wish them well in their new posts.

26. The General Council extends its hearty felicitations to Dr. Charles E. Schaeffer on the occasion of his 90th birthday and renews its acknowledgment of his lifetime of service to the Church.

27. The General Council approves the application of The Samaritan nursing home, Rochester, Minnesota, as a benevolent institution of the Church, the Commission on Benevolent Institutions having taken favorable action upon the application of The Samaritan for membership in the Commission.

Secretary's Report

28. The General Council authorizes the Administrative Committee to establish the place and dates for the 1959 meeting of the General Synod. The General Council approves the proposal that this meeting be held immediately preceding the meeting of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ.

29. The General Council approves Form XXIII for reporting proposed changes in synodical boundaries resulting from intersynodical transfers of congregations.

30. The General Council recommends that the Secretary of the Church refer to the Executive Council of the United Church of Christ the question of procedure whereby a study might be made of work responsibilities and salaries of personnel in the general offices of the United Church of Christ.

31. The General Council refers to the Committee on Finance and Budget the matter of rental allowances for ordained employees of the Church in the light of rulings recently adopted by the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

32. The General Council adopts the proposal of the Secretary of the Church that "Annual meetings of the General Council should not include plans on our part for preaching engagements or for Wednesday evening dinner meetings, but that this procedure should be followed only at the semiannual meetings of the General Council."

33. Because the 1959 Lenten season will begin during the second week in February, the General Council directs the Administrative Committee to make provision for holding the 1959 annual meeting of the Council during the first week in February.

34. The General Council directs that the responsibility for insurance coverage for members of the General Council and staff members of the boards and agencies of the Church remain in the office of the Secretary.

35. The General Council expresses its deep appreciation to Dr. Sheldon E. Mackey for his consecrated and efficient labors in carrying out the various responsibilities that have devolved upon him in his capacity as Administrative Assistant to the President, Secretary of the Church, and Co-Secretary of the United Church of Christ.

The open session of the General Council was concluded at 4:10 p.m. and an executive session was begun at 4:15 p.m.

ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL

While in executive session the General Council

VOTED: 58-2-GC 11 to elect Dr. Thomas D. Garner and Rev. George P. Ellerbrake to complete the unexpired terms of Dr. Roy W. Limbert and Dr. John L. Schmidt, respectively, as members of the Council.

The General Council agreed that Dr. Garner should succeed Dr. Limbert as a member of the Committee on Correlation and Promotion and that Mr. Ellerbrake should succeed Dr. Schmidt as a member of the Committee on Publication.

COMMON CARRIER INSURANCE

By common consent the General Council referred to the Committee on Finance and Budget a suggestion that the common carrier insurance covering the staff members of boards and agencies of the Church be increased because of the travel which they must undertake for the United Church of Christ.

A recess was taken from 4:30 p.m. until 7:40 p.m., at which time the General Council met in open session.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATION (Part I)

Dr. Koch, Chairman of the General Council's Committee on Publication and Co-Chairman of the Joint Committee on a Biweekly Publication for the United Church of Christ, stated that the Joint Committee, at a meeting held December 4, 1957, had voted to recommend that a two-year contract for printing the United Church journal be negotiated with Publishers Printing - Rogers Kellogg Corporation, despite the fact that Eden Publishing House had been the low bidder for this work.

Dr. Koch then read Part I of the report of the Committee on Publication. A discussion took place, following which it was

VOTED: 58-2-GC12 to adopt this section of the Committee's report.

As adopted by the General Council, Part I of the report of the Committee on Publication is as follows:

The General Council of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, through its Committee on Publication, has taken note of the consultations of the Joint Committee on a journal for the United Church of Christ, and of the reactions of the Board of Directors of Eden Publishing House and of the Board of Business Management, and requests the Joint Committee to reconsider the bases

of its action of December 4, 1957. In connection with this request the General Council records the following observations:

1. The General Council wants its own position to be clearly understood, namely, that if the verified facts of financial expense and mechanical competence favor publication of the journal elsewhere than at Eden Publishing House, the interests of the United Church of Christ will fully justify this decision.

2. The General Council cannot ignore the fact that Eden Publishing House has been an institution of long standing in our fellowship; that it is a going concern, the net profits of which are one of the resources made available to the Evangelical and Reformed Church; that in recent years, with the General Council's encouragement and approval, Eden Publishing House has expanded its plant and equipment at an investment of several hundred thousand dollars; and that, on these grounds, a decision which would remove from Eden Publishing House one of its major operations cannot but be viewed by the General Council with concern.

3. Serious responsible questioning has arisen as to comparable estimates on publication of the new journal. The latest figures, which seem to be accepted by representatives of both uniting groups, indicate that printing of the new journal at Eden Publishing House would require less subsidy in an amount of at least $24,882.00 per year. If reconsideration shows these figures to be correct and valid, then on this score printing at Eden Publishing House would clearly be favored.

4. Whereas question was raised at the December 4, 1957 meeting as to the method and procedure on the basis of which the estimate of Eden Publishing House was submitted, all we have been able to learn indicates to us that this was done quite in order and above question.

5. While the original bid of Eden Publishing House was based on the time schedule set forth in the specifications, it should be noted that Eden Publishing House has offered a further 5% reduction, amounting to about $12,000, if some revision of schedule can be made. We think this adjustment is not impracticable to the point of excluding consideration of this offer.

6. The issue as to whether or not a denomination should have its own printing agency - on which be it noted there is no unanimity in the Evangelical and Reformed Church or among the Christian communions generally - is not an issue properly before the Joint Committee, nor properly a factor in its decision as to where the journal for the United Church of Christ should be printed; yet in this connection Evangelical and Reformed representatives on the Joint Committee could not help but note at the December 4 meeting the apparent "evangelistic zeal" against a denominational printing agency on the part of the graphic arts consultant.

7. On the mechanical competence of Eden Publishing House, the General Council cannot overlook the fact that Eden Publishing House has been printing 90,000 and more copies of each issue of THE MESSENGER, which we think we have had some reason to look upon as no mean publication in its physical quality alone.

8. The General Council ventures to suggest that, if a thorough reconsideration of the pertinent factors reduces significantly the practical questions as to printing at Eden Publishing House, the printing contract be awarded to Eden Publishing House for a trial period of two years during which a careful evaluation of all aspects of work done and expense involved be carried forward.

(For Part II of this report see p. 18; for Part III see p. 19.)

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND BUDGET (Part I)

Part I of the report of the Committee on Finance and Budget was presented by Mr. Webber. It was acted upon item by item. Item 11 was amended and adopted as amended. The other items were adopted without change.

As amended and adopted, Part I of the Committee's report is as follows:

1. The Committee on Finance and Budget, having reviewed the report of the Treasurer of the Church, recommends its approval by the General Council.

2. The General Council directs that $395.00 received additionally from the Estates of Joshua, Frank and David Hain, from Bay, Missouri, be deposited in the National Missions Building Loan Fund as a memorial to the Hain Brothers (GC, 2/57: p. 13, item 6).

3. The General Council directs the Treasurer to pay $100.00 each to the Board of National Missions and the Board of International Missions from a bequest received from Herman C. W. Wendland of Elmhurst, Illinois, designated for "Missions of the Evangelical and Reformed Church."

4. The General Council approves the payment of additional subsidies for the office of full-time President to Kansas City Synod-$1,437.50, Southern Synod-$1,285.50, Texas Synod-$188.00, and the West Coast Area-$6,479.00 -- a total of $9,390.00. These amounts have been computed from reports presented and are in addition to the basic $2,500.00 payable to 24 Synods and Area, totaling $71,890.00.

5. The General Council directs that $100,000.00 of our present total overage be held as a reserve for Church Union lawsuit expenses.

6. The General Council directs that $7,000.00 given by Eden Publishing House from its 1956 profits be placed in the Apportionment Surplus Account.

7. The General Council directs the Treasurer to charge the Church Union deficit of $19,442.38 and the Chaplains' Pensions deficit of $1,120.00 to the 1957 Contingent Fund balance.

8. The General Council, per its 1955 directive (GC, 2/55: p. 22, item 10), approves the addition of the following sentence to the form "Student Loan Note for Men": "Any obligation not discharged on the total loaned by the Church to the signer of this note, in the event of his departure from the ministry of the Evangelical and Reformed Church shall become a first charge against equities he has accumulated in the Ministers' Retirement Annuity Fund."

9. The General Council approves the following guaranteed advance for the 1958 fiscal year:

	Budget 1957-1959	Guaranteed Advance 1957	Guaranteed Advance 1958
International Missions	$1,009,000	$830,000	$850,000
National Missions	900,000	730,000	730,000
National Missions, Building Fund	450,000	370,000	400,000
Pensions and Relief	761,000	690,000	690,000
Pensions and Relief, Pastors' Homes		10,000	10,000
Christian Education and Publication	334,000	280,000	300,000
Eden Seminary	85,915	85,915	85,915
Lancaster Seminary	63,915	63,915	63,915
Mission House Seminary	31,467	31,467	31,467
Lakeland College	48,448	46,208	46,208
Elmhurst College	86,436	83,916	83,916
Heidelberg College	54,726	52,206	52,206
Cedar Crest College	49,436	46,916	46,916
Catawba College	49,436	46,916	46,916
Ursinus College	43,436	40,916	40,916
Franklin and Marshall College	43,436	40,916	40,916
Hood College	39,936	37,416	37,416
Massanutten Academy	21,718	20,458	20,458
Mercersburg Academy	21,718	20,458	20,458
Churchmen's Brotherhood	8,000	8,000	8,000
Women's Guild	2,000	2,000	2,000
Evangelism	45,000	40,000	42,000
Christian Social Action	59,500	50,000	53,000
Stewardship	27,500	21,000	21,000
Higher Education	5,000	3,500	4,250
Church and Ministry	61,500	50,000	53,500
Subsidy, Synod Presidents	75,000	75,000	75,000
Benevolent Institutions	5,000	2,500	3,500
Historical Commission	5,000	3,500	3,500
Synods' Travel Equalization	4,500	3,000	3,900
Student Loans	90,000	75,000	75,000
United Promotion	100,000	95,000	95,000
Visual Aids, Radio, TV	95,000	60,000	60,000
Administration Fund	159,000	125,000	135,000
Church Union	50,000	40,000	50,000
Messenger Subsidy		61,600	60,000
Messenger Promotion		5,000	5,000
Lapja Subsidy	130,000	13,300	13,400
Friedensbote Subsidy		14,300	12,600
Board of Business Management		15,800	15,000
National Council of Churches	12,846	12,846	12,846
World Council of Churches	12,500	12,500	12,500
Alliance of Reformed Churches	3,800	3,800	3,800
Chaplains' Pensions	4,831	4,800	4,831
Ecumenical Travel Fund	15,000	8,000	8,000
Contingent Fund	35,000	15,000	35,000
Total	$5,100,000	$4,348,069	$4,465,250

10. (a) The General Council authorizes a sum not to exceed $35,000 to be available as needed for the Office of Communication of the United Church with the approval of the Administrative Committee of the Evangelical and Reformed Church. This amount will be in addition to $16,800 now included in our Church Union budget figure and $6,000 now being paid by the Bureau of Audio-Visual Aids for Radio and TV.

(b) The General Council requests our members of the Administrative Committee of the Office of Communication to report their reaction to the operation of the Office of Communication at the General Council meeting in February 1959, for review.

11. The General Council authorizes the Treasurer, per its 1955 directive (GC, 2/55: p. 22, item 9), to negotiate for the collection of funds loaned to students who did not complete their service to entitle them to cancellation of the loans.

12. The General Council authorizes the payment of $10,000 each to the Boards of National Missions, International Missions and Christian Education, and $15,000 to the Contingent Fund, from the overages. The balance of $118,227.73 of overage will be held for later distribution.

(For Part II of this report see p. 17; for Part III see pp. 20-21.)

MISSION HOUSE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Dr. Louis H. Gunnemann, Dean of the Mission House Theological Seminary, was introduced by President Wagner and spoke concerning the Development Program of the seminary.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE PROGRAMS AND FACILITIES OF THE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARIES

Dr. Dearborn, Chairman of the Committee to Study the Programs and Facilities of the Theological Seminaries, read the Committee's report. (See Appendix 6.)

After discussing the recommendations of the Committee, the General Council

VOTED: 58-2-GC13 to receive the report with very great appreciation, to discharge the Committee, and to refer the report to the Administrative Committee for further consideration, with the hope that they may be able to report to the General Council at its fall meeting, and not later than next February.

After further discussion the Council

VOTED: 58-2-GC14 to make the report of the study committee available to the Consultation Conference on Higher Education which is to be held at Chicago, April 21-24, and to suggest the advisability of the chairman of the study committee being present when the question of the theological seminaries of the United Church of Christ is considered.

Following a prayer by Dr. Wagner, the General Council recessed at 9:40 p.m.

Wednesday, February 12

The General Council met in executive session at 7:40 p.m.

MINISTRY TO HUNGARIANS BY THE COMMISSION ON WORLD SERVICE

By common consent the General Council adopted the following resolution:

> The General Council expresses its appreciation of the work of the Commission on World Service, especially with regard to its ministries in the tragic aftermath of the revolt in Hungary in October, 1956: its immediate and subsequent shipment of material aid - food, clothing, medicines and other necessities - into Hungary; its resettlement of more than a thousand Hungarian refugees among our people; its assignment of the Rev. Arpad L. Beretz to Austria, to assist refugees arriving from Hungary; its assignment of the Rev. Imre G. Bertalan to Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, during the height of activities at the refugee reception center there; its assignment of the Rev. Arpad DeKallos to Italy for service to Hungarians who have sought refuge in that country; and its support of a Hungarian clergyman, Pastor Nagy, in the church center for Hungarians in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The General Council affirms its continuing concern for World Service ministries to human need and in interchurch aid, and its confidence that the Commission on World Service will be fully aware of what further steps need to be taken from time to time to implement this concern.

DIRECTOR OF THE BUREAU OF AUDIO-VISUAL AIDS

Dr. Mackey presented for approval the matter of the employment of Rev. Porter Bower, Director of the Visual Aids Department of the Missions Council of the Congregational Christian Churches, as Director of our Bureau of Audio-Visual Aids. He explained that Mr. Bower's services would be shared equally by the Visual Aids Department and the Bureau of Audio-Visual Aids, and his salary would be shared equally by the Missions Council and the Department of United Promotion. Since a minister employed by the Congregational Christian Churches receives no house allowance, the total amount paid to Mr. Bower from the budget of the Department of United Promotion would be $4,000 a year.

The General Council

VOTED: to approve the employment of Rev. Porter Bower as Director of the
58-2-GC15 Bureau of Audio-Visual Aids, at an annual salary of $4,000.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND BUDGET (Part II)

Items 13 and 14 of the report of the Committee on Finance and Budget were presented by Mr. Webber. Item 13 was adopted without change. Item 14 was amended and adopted as amended.

As adopted by the General Council the items are as follows:

13. The Committee on Finance and Budget has reviewed all salaries within its purview, as well as the recommendations of the boards, commissions and agencies. The Committee recommends that the following salaries be set for the fiscal year beginning February 1, 1958:

Officers of the Church

President	$16,000
First Vice-President	1,200
Secretary	8,000 and 3,000

We recommend that the salary of the Secretary be $8,000, and that so long as the office of Administrative Assistant to the President is vacant and the duties are carried by the Secretary, the Secretary receive $3,000 additional salary for performing such duties.

Treasurer	10,500
Assistant Treasurer of the Church	$10,000
Counselor of the Church	$6,000

Department of United Promotion

Director	$7,500
Associate Director	6,800
National Field Secretary	6,200
Director, Church Finance Advisory Service	6,600
Director, Bureau of Audio-Visual Aids	4,000

We recommend the following scale of salaries for the fiscal year beginning February 1, 1958:

For Boards

Executive Secretary	$7,000 to 7,500
Associate Secretary	6,000 to 6,500
Field Secretary	5,500 to 6,200

For Commissions and Agencies

Executive Secretary	$6,400 to 6,800
Associate Secretary	5,800 to 6,200
Field Secretary	5,300 to 5,700

14. The Committee on Finance and Budget recommends that, beginning in 1959, our executives and those of boards, commissions and agencies be given allowances for housing and utilities of $1,500 annually, and that this be construed as a directive to the boards, commissions and agencies.

(For Part I of this report see pp. 13-15; for Part III see pp. 20-21.)

JOB ANALYSIS: ASSISTANT TREASURER OF THE CHURCH

It was

VOTED: 58-2-GC16 that the Treasurer of the Church and the Chairman of the Committee on Finance and Budget be authorized to prepare a job analysis of the office of Assistant Treasurer of the Church, and that this job analysis include an item authorizing the Assistant Treasurer to sign checks in the event of the absence or disability of the Treasurer of the Church.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATION (Part II)

Dr. Koch read the reply of the Joint Committee on a Biweekly Publication for the United Church of Christ to the General Council's request that the Joint Committee reconsider the bases of its action of December 4, 1957, and possibly, in the light of such reconsideration, substitute for its original proposal a recommendation that the contract for printing the journal of the United Church of Christ be awarded to Eden Publishing House for a trial period of two years. He then presented as item 9 of the report of the General Council's Committee on Publication the following:

> The reply of the Joint Committee to the General Council's request for reconsideration of the action taken by the Joint Committee on December 4, 1957, is herewith transmitted. It contains a reaffirmation of the action of that date. The Committee on Publication recommends the adoption of the following resolution:
>
> > The General Council approves the decision of the Joint Committee to award a contract for printing the journal of the United Church of Christ to Publishers Printing - Rogers Kellogg Corporation.

After considerable discussion a substitute for the foregoing resolution was suggested. After further discussion it was

VOTED: 58-2-GC17 to consider the substitute resolution.

The substitute resolution, revised and in final form, was read. The General Council

VOTED: 58-2-GC18 to adopt the substitute resolution as item 9 of the report of the Committee on Publication.

As adopted by the General Council the item is as follows:

9. In view of the fact that Eden Publishing House has been the low bidder on printing of the United Church journal, that our confidence in the technical competence of Eden Publishihg House is unaltered, that Eden Publishing House is deeply rooted in the sentiments of a great section of the Evangelical and Reformed Church and has been an economic asset to the Church's work, the General Council is not prepared to approve the decision of the Joint Committee on a journal for the United Church of Christ. We believe that Eden Publishing House is an institution which is one of the strengths we can bring into the life of the United Church of Christ.

(For Part I of this report see pp. 11-13; for Part III see p. 19.)

The General Council took note of the fact that a meeting of the Joint Committee on a Biweekly Publication for the United Church of Christ and a meeting of the Executive Council of the United Church are to be held at Cincinnati, Ohio, on April 9. Since twelve members of the General Council, including the seven members of its Administrative Committee, serve on the Executive Council of the United Church, the General Council

VOTED: 58-2-GC19 to empower the Administrative Committee, with the advice of the five other General Council members who serve on the Executive Council of the United Church of Christ, to act for the General Council on any proposals concerning the United Church journal which might come to them from the meeting of the Joint Committee.

The executive session of the General Council was concluded at 9:26 p.m. and was followed by an open session.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATION (Part III)

Dr. Koch concluded the presentation of the report of the Committee on Publication by reading items 10 and 11. After reading item 10 he stated that the Committee would present at the fall meeting of the General Council a resolution expressing appreciation of the services of Rev. Otto Press as editor of DER FRIEDENSBOTE.

Items 10 and 11 were adopted by separate actions. They are as follows:

10. The General Council takes note of the retirement of the Rev. Otto Press as editor of DER FRIEDENSBOTE, effective December 31, 1958, and instructs the Committee on Publication to consider the future of this publication.

11. The General Council looks with favor on the appointment of a Joint Editorial Committee of the Commission on Evangelism and its Congregational Christian counterpart, and on the proposed plan

(a) to publish in 1960 a joint devotional guide, "Daily Talks - Daily Devotions," beamed primarily for adult use in personal devotions.

(b) to publish jointly in 1960 a family devotional booklet with emphasis upon the interest of the entire family, this booklet to be prepared in consultation with specialists in the field of Christian Education.

(For Part I of this report see pp. 11-13; for Part II see p. 18.)

NAME OF THE JOURNAL OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

For the information of the advisory members of the General Council, Dr. Koch stated that the Joint Committee on a journal for the United Church of Christ had approved unanimously a suggestion of Dr. Schmidt that this publication be known as THE UNITED CHURCH HERALD. In so doing the Joint Committee gave consideration to the fact that each of our uniting communions, in former years, had used the word "Herald" as the name of one of its publications.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND BUDGET (Part III)

Part III of the report of the Committee on Finance and Budget was presented by Mr. Webber. It was acted upon item by item.

As previously recorded in these minutes, item 17 was deleted from the report of the Finance Committee and was inserted in item 19 of the report of the Committee on the Reports of the President and the Secretary. The deletion of item 17 necessitated the renumbering of other items of the report of the Committee on Finance and Budget.

Item 19 was amended and adopted as amended. On Thursday morning this action was rescinded and a substitute for item 19 was adopted.

All other items were adopted without change.

As adopted by the General Council, Part III of the report of the Committee on Finance and Budget is as follows:

15. The General Council directs the Treasurer to pay $2,000 to the National Council's Department of Racial and Cultural Relations from the Contingent Fund.

16. The General Council recommends that up to $1,000 be made available from the Contingent Fund for the Evangelical and Reformed share of costs in connection with the study of the future of Mission House Seminary.

17. The General Council directs the Treasurer to pay $1,000 toward the erection and maintenance of the Protestant Pavilion at the Brussels Universal and International Exposition from the Contingent Fund.

18. The General Council directs the Board of Business Management, as per the "Statement of Intention" previously agreed upon by all parties concerned, to pay $5,000 to the Board of Christian Education and Publication as an adjustment with reference to the James I. Good Historical Fund.

19. The General Council ventures the opinion in the event agencies of the Church desire to move their headquarters, such moving should be done in consultation with other agencies whose work or budgets might be adversely affected by the moving, and in the light of the interests of the whole Church.

20. The General Council directs that our delegation to the Brazil General Council of the World Alliance of Reformed and Presbyterian Churches be composed of six persons, whose expenses will be payable from the Ecumenical Travel Fund.

21. The General Council agrees with the statement of the President that it would seem proper to request the Executive Council of the United Church of Christ to consider the problem of reimbursement of the travel expenses of the active administrative bodies of agencies operating for the United Church of Christ.

22. The General Council authorizes the establishment of a scholarship at the Graduate School of Ecumenical Studies of the Ecumenical Institute, Chateau de Bossey, Celigny, Switzerland, for the next term, October 1, 1958 to February 15, 1959, in the amount of $350, payable from the Contingent Fund. It directs that the use of this scholarship by an Evangelical and Reformed student be a responsibility of the Commission on Church and Ministry. It requests the Commission on World Service to consider the possibility of maintaining such an annual scholarship as a part of its program of interchurch aid.

(For Part I of this report see pp. 13-15; for Part II see p. 17.)

ADDITIONAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

Dr. Mackey read the minutes of a meeting of the Administrative Committee which had been held on Tuesday, February 11. The General Council

VOTED: to adopt these minutes as an additional report of the Adminis-
58-2-GC20 trative Committee.

The open session of the General Council was concluded at 9:55 p.m. Following a moment of silent devotion, a closing prayer was offered by Dr. Bittner.

Thursday, February 13

The General Council reconvened at 9:00 a.m. Dr. Wentzel offered prayer.

The newly-appointed Director of the Bureau of Audio-Visual Aids, Rev. Porter Bower, was introduced to the Council by Dr. Klein.

As previously recorded, item 19 of the report of the Committee on Finance and Budget was reconsidered and a substitute for it was adopted.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CORRELATION AND PROMOTION

Owing to the absence of Dr. Haas, Chairman of the Committee on Correlation and Promotion, the report of the Committee was read by the Acting Chairman, Dr. Flucke.

Items 6 and 16 were received as information. Items 1 and 2 were amended and adopted as amended. The other items were adopted without change.

As adopted by the General Council the report is as follows:

1. The Committee on Correlation and Promotion recommends that the General Council authorize the Commission on Church and Ministry to appoint an Assistant Secretary, with special responsibility for Life Enlistment, to serve for three years, and that the funds necessary for the support of such office be found in the budget of the Commission on Church and Ministry.

2. The Committee on Correlation and Promotion recommends that the General Council establish a committee to study the possible need of the Commission on Benevolent Institutions for a full-time Executive Secretary and an adequate budget for such office, and to present its proposals to the General Council for submission to the next General Synod.

3. The Committee on Correlation and Promotion recommends that the General Council adopt the amended report of the Committee on Job Analysis of the Office of Fund Raising in the Department of United Promotion. (See Sec. Report, p. 10.)

4. The Committee on Correlation and Promotion requests the General Council to reconsider its action recorded on page 18, item 3, of the minutes of its September 1957 meeting, and to allocate to the Department of United Promotion sufficient funds to provide for an "Advance" issue of THE MESSENGER in 1958, or for a separate publication if such seems advisable.

5. The Committee on Correlation and Promotion recommends that the portion of the salary of Rev. Porter Bower as Director of the Bureau of Audio-Visual Aids which is to be paid out of the budget of the Department of United Promotion be paid directly by the Treasurer of the Church.

6. The Committee on Correlation and Promotion reports as information that it is anticipating that the Wehrli films will be made available on approximately fifty additional TV stations in 1958.

7. The General Council commends the Director and the staff of the Department of United Promotion for the excellent work which they have done throughout the year 1957. The Council commends them especially in the light of the apparent results that have been indicated in the response of our people to the benevolent budget of the Church.

8. The General Council commends Dr. Perry L. Smith for the special work which he has done in the Dakota, Rocky Mountain and Magyar Synods.

9. In the light of Dr. Smith's report to the General Council on his Every Congregation Visitation in the Magyar Synod, the Council requests the President of the Church, and such others as he might like to include, to plan for a consultation with the Synodical Council of the Magyar Synod at which the concerns of the Church and the Magyar Synod might be discussed. The General Council suggests that if at all possible this consultation be held prior to the 1958 spring meeting of the Magyar Synod.

10. The Committee on Correlation and Promotion suggests the following as possible overall themes for a unified emphasis in the United Church of Christ, beginning in 1960: (a) "United - For Greater Witness"; (b) "A United Church - A Growing Mission." The Committee on Correlation and Promotion recommends that these emphases be referred to the Department of United Promotion for conference with the Missions Council of the Congregational Christian Churches and subsequent report to the Executive Council of the United Church of Christ.

11. The General Council approves an Every Congregation Visitation following as soon as possible the meeting of the General Synod in 1959.

12. The Committee on Correlation and Promotion approves the plans of the Commission on Evangelism and the Department of Evangelism of the Division of Church Extension of the Congregational Christian Board of Home Missions for a conference to be held in the fall of 1959. To this conference will be invited the chairmen of the synod and conference Committees on Evangelism, as well as those who carry a portfolio on the conference level and certain additional persons.

13. The General Council requests the President of the Church to appoint a Committee on Program for the 1958 Fall Meetings of the Synods.

14. The General Council refers to the Commission on Church and Ministry, for study in consultation with the Board of Pensions and Relief, a Group Insurance Plan of South Wisconsin Synod, combining Blue Shield and Blue Cross and a $2,000 life insurance policy with double indemnity, for our pastors. (See Appendix 7.)

15. The Committee on Correlation and Promotion, after studying the reports of the full-time synod presidents and the area president (Appendix 7), notes with appreciation and pleasure the ecumenical interests of the presidents, as well as the real effort on their part to coordinate and cooperate with their counterparts in the Congregational Christian Churches. The Committee notes, further, that in practically every instance the presidents have given very real cooperation to the Department of United Promotion in furthering the total program of the Church.

16. The Committee on Correlation and Promotion was happy to receive one-page reports from the Board of National Missions and the Commissions on Evangelism, Christian Social Action, Stewardship, and Church and Ministry. The Committee notes with regret the absence of reports from the other agencies of the Church.

17. The General Council requests the Board of Pensions and Relief to make available to all of our boards and agencies information concerning the Retirement Fund for Lay Workers of the Board of Home Missions of the Congregational Christian Churches.

MESSAGE TO CONGREGATIONS AND PASTORS

By common consent the General Council requested the President of the Church to write for inclusion in THE MESSENGER, DER FRIEDENSBOTE and REFORMATUSOK LAPJA a message thanking the people and the pastors of the Evangelical and Reformed Church for their support of the benevolent budget in 1957.

COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

Dr. Mackey stated that the Committee on Constitutional Matters was not ready to report to the General Council.

"R" CHURCH BUILDING FUND

Dr. Keck reported that the liquidation of the Church Building Fund of the Board of Home Missions of the Reformed Church in the U. S. was proceeding satisfactorily. At the close of the 1957 fiscal year the assets of the Fund totaled $325,109.01 and the liabilities totaled $92,450.00.

STATEMENTS BY ADVISORY MEMBERS

Dr. Wagner called upon the President of the Women's Guild to address the General Council. Miss Kapitzky spoke concerning the work of the Guild and the future work of the laity in the United Church of Christ.

Dr. Huber Klemme, Executive Secretary of the Commission on Christian Social Action, spoke of a conference on the theme "The Christian as a Citizen" which will be held at Ursinus College next June, in cooperation with the Churchmen's Brotherhood and the Congregational Christian Laymen's Fellowship.

Dr. Wilke, Executive Secretary of the Commission on Church and Ministry, reported that a letter had been sent by the Commission to the synodical Committees on Church and Ministry, urging them to consider the matter of increased salaries for the pastors of their synods.

PRESIDENT EMERITUS GOEBEL

President Emeritus Goebel expressed appreciation of President Wagner's request that he attend this meeting of the General Council and conduct the opening devotional service. Commenting upon his impressions as an observer of the General Council in action, he stated that he had noted with a great sense of thanksgiving the spirit of consecration and cooperation which marked the deliberations of the Council.

MR. GEORGE W. HUMMEL

Dr. Mackey reported that Mr. George W. Hummel, President of the Board of Trustees of the Schaff-Heidelberg Corporation, was ill. Stating that Mr. Hummel throughout his lifetime had been an active servant of the Church, and that he had been largely, and perhaps mainly, responsible for the fortunate change in circumstances which had made the Schaff Building a very real asset to the life of the Church, Dr. Mackey suggested that the General Council send him a greeting. The General Council

VOTED: 58-2-GC21 to instruct the Secretary to send a message to Mr. Hummel, expressing our regrets at his illness and our hopes and prayers for his speedy recovery.

FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL

Fall meeting. The General Council was reminded that its fall meeting will be held at Burlington, Iowa, September 15-18, 1958.

1959 annual meeting. The General Council

VOTED: 58-2-GC22 to hold its next annual meeting at Cleveland, Ohio, February 2-5, 1959.

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

Dr. Flucke stated that in California a very real interest in the United Church of Christ is being evidenced by the Disciples of Christ.

REV. OTTO PRESS

Dr. Wagner informed Rev. Otto Press of the sincere regret with which the General Council had learned of his decision to retire as editor of DER FRIEDENSBOTE. Mr. Press thanked the General Council for its efforts over the years to continue the publication of DER FRIEDENSBOTE and for the support and

encouragement it had accorded him as editor. Stressing the importance of providing the older, German-speaking constituency of our Church with a journal published in the language with which they are most familiar, he expressed a hope that a solution of the problem of continuing DER FRIEDENSBOTE would be found.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:47 a.m. the General Council

VOTED: to adjourn pending dismissal.
58-2-GC 23

All present rose and united in singing the Doxology and praying the Lord's Prayer, following which President Wagner pronounced the benediction.

James E. Wagner, Chairman

Sheldon E. Mackey, Secretary

APPENDICES

1. Report of the President
   Appendices:
   (a) President's Schedule, September 14, 1957 - February 1, 1958
   (b) Personnel Matters

2. Report on the President's Visit to Missions in Africa

3. Report of the Secretary
   Appendices:
   (a) Form XXIII: Proposed Change in Synodical Boundary
   (b) Schedule of Spring Synod Meetings for 1958
   (c) Statistical Resume
   (d) Data Concerning Ministers and Congregations of the Church
   (e) Job Analysis: Director of Church Finance Advisory Service
   (f) Engagements
   (g) Other Engagements

4. Report of the Treasurer

5. Data About the Magyar Synod

6. Report of the Committee to Study the Programs and Facilities of the Theological Seminaries

7. Reports of the Full-time Synod Presidents and the Area President

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE CHURCH

February 11-13, 1958

To Members of the General Council:-

You will already have received a copy of my report on the visit to Congregational Christian missions in South Africa, our own in Ghana and French Togoland, a week-end with evangelical Christians in Lisbon, Portugal, and attendance at one session of the International Missionary Council meeting in Ghana during my sojourn there. Nothing further will be said in this report about that visit except to express once again my thanks to the General Council for having made possible over the past fourteen months three such visits encompassing five of the seven fields overseas in which our missionaries are at work.

I suspect that all of us have waited, so to speak with bated breath, to see what the final reports for 1957 would reveal as to the response of our people to the program set before them for the year. Statistical reports on membership are not yet available but, since on December 31, 1956, the total number of communicants was 794,047, it is safe to assume that even an ordinary net gain in our communicant membership will have put us safely over the 800,000 mark and we can now set our sights on the figure 900,000 as our next landmark toward which to move.

Without doubt the receipts on Kingdom Service Apportionment would be the crucial test of life in our fellowship during 1957 since the response in this would indicate the measure of our people's commitment to such great causes as missions, evangelism, Christian education and the other areas of work and witness represented in the denominational budget.

We have every reason, therefore, to rejoice and take courage. Having set before our people the highest Apportionment in our history, $5,100,000,- 35 per cent higher than for the previous triennium, they have responded magnificently, especially in view of the somewhat spotty economic picture as the year progressed and increasing uncertainty as to the nation's economy as the new year approached.

Tentative report on receipts as available at the time this is being written indicates total contributions of $4,446,471 on Apportionment, $690,987 on World Service. While World Service receipts for 1957 dropped approximately $58,000 from those of 1956, they were, however, almost $91,000,- slightly above 15 per cent,- more than the nimimum goal, testifying to the continuing claim World Service has on the hearts of our people.

The Apportionment story is magnificent from a number of viewpoints. Whereas in 1956 our people contributed 95 per cent of the Kingdom Service Apportionment, in 1957 on this 35 per cent higher Apportionment they contributed 87 per cent,- a response surely sufficient to warrant our confidence that during the remaining two years of the triennium the pattern of our people's giving will follow that of previous trienniums, the percentage contributed increasing each year of the triennium.

General Council should find special satisfaction in the response of our people since just a year ago it faced the perplexity which it has to wrestle with as each new triennium begins,- how far it shall go in establishing the Guaranteed Advance for the first year of the new triennium, arriving at its

decision on the basis of past giving and on what may be reasonably expected in response to a higher budget. You had to act with considerable faith, and did so. The Guaranteed Advance of $4,348,069 which you set for 1957 was 33 per cent higher than the Guaranteed Advance for 1956, and 22 per cent higher than the receipts for 1956. Whereas in 1956 you had set a Guaranteed Advance which was 87 per cent of the Apportionment then in effect, a year ago you set a Guaranteed Advance equivalent to more than 85 per cent of a greatly increased Apportionment the response to which no one could anticipate with any certainty especially since even at that time there were some signs of what was variously referred to as a recession or at least a "levelling-off" in the economy.

Surely our people have given fresh evidence of the deep roots of their stewardship, and your venture of faith a year ago has been confirmed by their generosity.

To glimpse something of how far we have come in the Church of the union of 1934, it is worthwhile to recall that in 1940, the last year before we went onto a united budget, we had a communicant membership of 655,366 and contributed a total of $853,026 for missions and benevolences, while at that time we had no work in either Ecuador or Africa in the latter of which we now have our second largest corps of missionaries at work.

Hitherto hath the Lord helped us, and what God hath wrought will give us courage to venture great things for Him in the days ahead.

The Overage

With $157,724 of the 1956 overage held unallocated a year ago, and approximately $98,402 overage for 1957, we have an unallocated total of $255,126. Mention of this is made here only to get the figures before us. Decision as to the use thereof ought to have in mind the needs of our agencies, but at the same time adequate provision for potential claims on us for the United Church of Christ, including costs incident to our being named in the complaint filed last June 20 by the Congregational Christian group opposed to establishment of the United Church. This complaint and the burden of costs of litigation it imposes upon us we may contemplate with regret, but accept with patience as part of the price a Church must risk having to pay when it seeks to translate our "oneness in Christ" into the actuality of organic union.

Death of David A. Miller

David A. Miller, from 1947 to 1953 a member of General Council, died January 22 at Allentown in his 89th year. Elder Miller was a lifelong member of the former Reformed Church and the Evangelical and Reformed Church, an honored elder, a newspaper publisher who saw to it that religious news received abundant publicity, serving the cause of Christ in manifold ways including the old Laymen's movement long preceding the establishment of the Reformed Churchmen's League and our own Churchmen's Brotherhood. For 29 years he was a member of the Board of Foreign Missions of the former Reformed Church. He, along with Dr. Goebel and the late Dr. Richards, was one of our delegates at the Amsterdam Assembly which marked the organization of the World Council of Churches in 1948. Flowers were sent to the funeral in the name of General Council, and a letter of condolence was written to members of the family by the President of the Church. General Council will doubtless want to take note of his passing in suitable resolutions.

Changes in Membership of General Council

We welcome at this meeting the Rev. Willard A. Kratz, D.D., a pastor in the West New York Synod, who was elected at our September meeting to serve the unexpired term of Dr. Robert C. Stanger. Dr. Stanger's resignation from General Council was occasioned by his leaving the pastorate to assume the presidency of Elmhurst College.

Since our September meeting two other members of General Council have presented their resignations due to changes in their circumstances. The Rev. Roy W. Limbert, D.D., resigned because his assumption of the pastorate of St. Luke's Church, Lock Haven, Pennsylvania, took him into a synod already represented in the membership of General Council, Dr. Limbert's resignation thus adhering to the pattern designed to preserve widest geographical distribution of General Council membership as provided for in the By-Laws. The Rev. John L. Schmidt, D.D., resigned effective February 1, 1958, when he assumed the fulltime presidency of South Illinois Synod, making him ineligible to continue as a member of General Council; in this instance also the resignation averted having two members of General Council from the same synod. Because his resignation was to become effective only a few days before this meeting of the General Council, Dr. Schmidt was urged to be present at this time and serve as usual on the committees of which he has been a member, and he has also agreed to serve as Denominational Representative in the synods assigned to him for this spring.

The Administrative Committee at its meeting November 20 agreed on the nomination of candidates to succeed to these unexpired terms, which names will have been presented in the report of that committee. It is believed that these two candidates will be worthy and helpful additions to General Council. I will assume, unless otherwise instructed, that those elected to the vacancies will take membership on the General Council committees on which their predecessors served.

Ecumenical Organizations

My report last September incorporated data regarding the summer meetings of the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches and the Executive Committee of the World Alliance of Reformed and Presbyterian Churches, as well as the North American Conference on the Nature of the Unity We Seek which was held at Oberlin College early in September. Since then have occurred the Fourth General Assembly of the National Council of Churches held at St. Louis December 1-5, and the annual meeting of the North American Area Council of the Alliance at Pocono Manor, Pennsylvania, January 21-23.

The National Council, in addition to the transaction of more or less routine business, adopted after ample discussion significant declarations on such areas of concern as The Missionary Responsibility In Our Time, Concerning Refugees, Racial Practices, The Moral Crisis in the Labor Union Movement and in Labor-Management Practices, The Churches and Segregation, Some Hopes and Concerns of the Churches in the Nuclear-Space Age,- all of which will doubtless inform to large extent the thinking of our people in these fields.

Sessions of the North American Area Council of the Alliance devoted considerable time to planning for the 18th General Council of the World Alliance which is to be held at Campinas, near Sao Paulo, Brazil, July 27 to August 6,1959, in connection with which for the three weeks preceding is being planned what is

tentatively referred to as "An Evangelical Visitation in Latin America" designed to encourage and strengthen Protestant minorities and to supplement their witness in this predominantly Roman Catholic area. The President of the Evangelical and Reformed Church is chairman of the sub-committee planning this visitation, in the need and worth of which he strongly believes. The Council also adopted resolutions on Race Relations, Federal Aid to Education, and on the Churches in such lands as Hungary and Czechoslovakia, of such significance that they are being reported in the Blue Book for Synods as a guide for possible concurrent actions by these bodies.

There are several items from these various ecumenical agencies which ought to have General Council consideration, as follows:-

1. Since the next Assembly of the World Council of Churches will not meet before December, 1960, and perhaps not until a year after that, the next General Synod will offer ample time and opportunity for selection of our delegation to this Assembly. It is altogether likely that the delegation allocated to us as to American Churches in general will not be as large as our delegations at Evanston.

2. We should decide at this meeting how many delegates we will send to the General Council of the Alliance in Brazil in 1959, and refer to the Administrative Committee the responsibility of selecting this number from our North American Area delegation. Constitutionally, we would be entitled to send 19 delegates to the Brazil General Council, but this would be obviously impracticable because of the heavy expense involved. It has been agreed to set up a travel expense pool in order to encourage a larger representation from younger and weaker member-Churches of the Alliance, and to that pool a contribution of approximately $1,100 each will be asked for American delegates, which will of course cover their own travel expense. Because of what this Brazil meeting will doubtless mean to Protestantism in Latin America and to the younger Churches being encouraged to participate, and in view of resources provided for in the Ecumenical Travel Fund, General Council is urged to consider authorizing a delegation of at least six from the Evangelical and Reformed Church. Provision for registration and entertainment while at Campinas, plus the pro rata share in the travel expense pool, ought to be covered by a tentative estimate of $1,250 per delegate,- a total of $7,500, perhaps $8,000, for a delegation of six.

3. Efforts are being made to put the National Council's General Department of United Church Men on its feet with a capable executive and an adequate budget. Outgrowth of an October 3 conference of denominational executives and denominational men's work secretaries, and further discussion by the Executive Committee of the Department, the Policy and Strategy Committee and appropriate finance units of the National Council, the Evangelical and Reformed Church has been asked to give annually as its share of support of United Church Men's work the sum of $1,020. I take it that this request is provided for by word communicated to the appropriate officer of United Church Men by Dr. J. Kenneth Kohler, executive secretary of our Churchmen's Brotherhood, that the Brotherhood Board had "voted to include $1,000 in the budget for United Church Men in 1958.... ...However, instead of asking an extra $1,000 from the denomination we intend to try to raise this through increases in voluntary gifts (Challenge)." This procedure is quite in keeping of policy now favored by National Council leaders, that is, to secure support for National Council units directly from their denominational counterparts, in the belief that thus the latter will exercise a larger measure of control over program and budget of the corresponding National Council unit.

4. We have an urgent request from the Department of Racial and Cultural Relations that once again we contribute $2,000 as we did more than a year ago in order to carry forward the special Southern Project on Race Relations which was inaugurated after the Supreme Court decision of 1954 resulted in a rising tide of interracial tension in the South. Some of the activities which have been carried out through this project were listed at the end of June as follows: (1) more than 200 ministers located in difficult situations have been visited and counselled regarding their problems. (2) A list has been developed of 4,000 ministers and laymen throughout the South known to be sympathetic to racial justice and desegregation. This group receives educational materials from time to time and has proved to be of great help in field trips and in critical situations. (3) Visits have been made to State councils of churches of the region and aid has been given to several of them in carrying out projects designed to facilitate the desegregation process. (4) Co-operative work relationships have been established with the denominational social action workers in the South. (5) Relief funds have been given to about 114 persons. Eight ministers and two church-related organizations have received such aid. Other ministers have been aided through counselling or by their denominations. (6) Leadership was given to a number of denominational conferences on race relations. The Conference on Christian Faith and Human Relations attended by 300 southern church leaders was a significant project in which the Southern Project participated. (7) A group of 20 consultants has been organized. These persons who live in eleven southern states keep the Nashville office informed of events in their states and respond to requests for services in their areas. The work has been carried on under the leadership of the Rev. Will D. Campbell, Associate Executive Director of the Department of Racial and Cultural Relations,who has been giving full time to the project. In view of the continuing need of the Church's ministry both in prophetic leadership and in the work of reconciliation, the President of the Church believes every effort should be made to continue our support of this Project.

5. The next term of the Graduate School of Ecumenical Studies of the Ecumenical Institute, Chateau de Bossey, Celigny, Switzerland, is scheduled to be held October 1, 1958 to February 15, 1959. The Dean, Dr. H. H. Wolf, spoke to me during the Central Committee meeting at New Haven last summer, and more recently in a letter dated January 21 urged that the Evangelical and Reformed Church strengthen its participation in the Ecumenical Institute in two ways: (1) establish a scholarship at the Graduate School at a cost of $350 exclusive of travel; and (2) encourage one of our younger men to take advantage of this scholarship or, that failing, make the scholarship available to some student, perhaps from Asia or Africa, who otherwise would have no means of attending. It would seem that this would be an appropriate aspect of the In-Service Training program of the Commission on Church and Ministry, and if General Council is favorable to our participation the matter might be referred to the Commission for implementation. The Commission would have to determine how much supplementary aid, if any, should be made available to one of our men enrolling, to help in covering costs of travel and maintenance while at Bossey, and should have some assurance that General Council will be disposed to assist the Commission in financing our participation in the Institute.

Study Committees Report Progress

A number of special study committees authorized either by the last General Synod or by the General Council have been working for a sufficient length

of time to be able to report something indicating the direction in which they are moving.

Committee to Study Trends and Problems in Dakota and Rocky Mountain Synods

Members of General Council will recall the very illuminating statement presented at the last meeting by Dr. Perry L. Smith, National Field Secretary of the Department of United Promotion, based upon extensive visitation made last spring in Dakota and Rocky Mountain Synods. Pursuant to a suggestion then made in General Council session, the Administrative Committee on November 20 devoted an hour and a half to further discussion of the situation prevailing in those synods, with Dr. Purd E. Deitz and Dr. Louis H. Gunnemann present by invitation to share their knowledge and concern. It was agreed that a special committee composed of Dr. Louis H. Gunnemann, chairman, the Rev. Shirley E. Greene, new Secretary for Town and Country Life in the Board of National Missions, and Dr. Carl W. Klein should be appointed to study the situation in these synods and the various trends discernible over the past twenty years, and report to the General Council in due time. Dr. Gunnemann has accepted the chairmanship of this committee.

Committee to Study the Church's Responsibility in the Care of the Mentally Ill and the Mentally Retarded

The Committee to Study the Church's Responsibility in the Care of the Mentally Ill and the Mentally Retarded held its first meeting on October 30, and is scheduled to meet again on Feburary 14. Its chairman, Samuel C. Bond, Jr., under date of January 3 reported as follows:

> "Our gathering was well attended and resulted in some lively discussion on the study of the church's responsibility in the care of the mentally ill and mentally retarded. It was decided to take the broadest possible viewpoint of the directive from Synod (no quick decisions). Several subjects were chosen by committee members to be pursued; such as, the meaning of and motivation bhind the directive; a report on a mental program now under way in St. Louis; the extent of pastoral training on the subject; responsibility in and for institutions (mentally ill and mentally retarded); local church-community concern; preparation of church for discharge patients; what are other denominations doing; mentally retarded in church schools; report on a book by Dr. Apple.
>
> "I like the idea of the broad approach at the start, but I anticipate that we may get out on a few side roads. I hope we can find the main road. I think it will be necessary to draw a line between mentally ill and mentally retarded - at least for our report."

Committee to Study the Facilities and Programs of the Theological Seminaries

Dr. Donald C. Dearborn, chairman of the Committee to Study the Facilities and Programs of the Theological Seminaries, reports as follows:

> "The special committee to study the seminaries of the Church has visited each of the three seminaries, spending two days on each campus. These

"visits were of great value to the committee and its work and, I believe, were morale boosters for the seminary faculties.
"The committee has also met with Dr. Harold Wilke, representing the Commission on Church and Ministry, and has made a preliminary draft of its report which is now being circulated for revision. We hope to have the report completed before the meeting of the General Council in February.
"With your permission, we should also like to present this report to the January meeting of the Commission on Higher Education if it can be completed before their meeting. Some of the recommendations will involve this Commission, and, since they meet only annually, it seems important that they should have the report this year."

One sentence in Dr. Dearborn's letter suggests that he may be able to present the committee's report to this meeting of the General Council.

Committee on Formula for Allocations to the Church's Educational Institutions

The work of the Committee on Formula for Allocations to the Church's Educational Institutions is reflected in excerpts from the committee's first meeting on November 12 and in a letter from its chairman, Dr. Theodore A. Distler. The minutes read in part as follows:

"The budget for educational institutions is now $650,000. During the present triennium 100% is guaranteed to the theological seminaries and 90% to colleges and academies. Seminaries preparing ministers for the Church are regarded as more directly the responsibility of the Church and to be supported accordingly.
"The policy of other denominations was reviewed on the basis of reports gathered by the chairman from various denominational officers having duties in this area.
"The formula of the Presbyterian Church USA was regarded as most helpful and to be distributed to each of the committee members.
"The statement on church-related institutions previously adopted by General Synod was also to be distributed to the committee.
"It was recalled that the Emergency Fund formula was 1½ shares to the seminaries; 1 share to the colleges; and ½ share to the academies.
"Considerations in the above policy reflect that seminaries charge no tuition, are instruments of the Church and their graduates serve the Church directly.
"Factors to determine allocations include factors such as endowment; size of faculty; and size of student body.
"Copies of the correspondence received from presidents of the following schools were reproduced and given to members of the committee present: Cedar Crest College; Massanutten Military Academy; Hood College; Ursinus College; and the report of the Commission on Higher Education to the General Council - 1950.
"The opinion commonly held by the committee was that General Council ought to consider a separate policy for the theological seminaries to be determined by the General Council, or the study committee on theological seminaries or some other designated committee.
"It was our considered opinion that a formula can be devised for our colleges and academies. A formula will be submitted in sufficient time

"for General Council to review it in the necessary time schedule indicated above.
"Data is to be requested from the heads of all our schools giving: present enrollment; full time student enrollment; No. of E & R and C C students enrolled; No. of students for the ministry and Christian vocations; endowments; listing of sources of income and other pertinent data."

Dr. Distler's letter transmitting a copy of the minutes read in part as follows:

"As you can see from the minutes, we arrived at no definite conclusions. I think it is fair to say, however, that we were unanimous in feeling that it would be next to impossible to set up a formula for the Church to give to the seminaries. If I judge the sentiment of the meeting correctly, it was our unanimous opinion that the Church ought to consider a separate policy for the seminaries, to be determined by the General Council or the study committee on the theological seminaries. The committee felt that we could come up with a formula for the colleges and academies. You will realize, I am sure, that this first meeting was quite general in its nature and concentrated pretty largely on (1) giving the members the past history; (2) some material which I gathered preparatory to the meeting, telling us how other churches were handling this problem; and (3) again material I gathered preparatory to the meeting, namely letters on how the institutional heads themselves felt about the matter.
"Dr. Mackey's presence was most helpful, since he explained relationships and the demands made upon the Church from various boards and agencies."

Committee to Study the Relationship of Our Hospitals to the Church

Progress of the Committee to Study the Relationship of Our Hospitals to the Church is indicated in the following excerpts from a letter written by its chairman, Dr. Albert G. Gonser:

"First, during the past year various members of the Committee have had consultations and informal meetings concerning our task in connection with meetings of the Commission on Benevolent Institutions and Hospital Conventions.
"Secondly, we will be meeting in Chicago on Friday, January 10, for a full scale session of the Committee.
"Third, some of the areas which we are studying include the following:
" "1. Shall the denomination encourage the founding of more hospitals by our church groups? The last hospital founded by members of the E & R Church was in 1923.
"2. Shall the Church provide scholarships or other forms of aid to train both clergy and lay members to prepare themselves for the specialized vocation of hospital administrator and other hospital related positions?
"3. What are other denominations doing to strengthen the relationship between the denomination and its hospitals?
"4. Shall the Church exercise a specialized ministry through the chaplaincy program in its hospitals? This would mean training and encouraging young men to prepare for this type of ministry.

"5. Shall the Church subsidize some of the charity work done by these institutions which are arms of the Church in the ministry of healing?

"6. Shall the Church subsidize the hospital training schools for nurses, technicians, and interns as it does the academies and colleges of the denomination?

"7. As we enter into the United Church of Christ more fully, how can we bear more effective witness to the Gospel through our benevolent institutions, including the hospitals of the Church?

"These are some of the areas of concern to which we are addressing ourselves during this triennium. No doubt other areas of study will suggest themselves as we continue our work."

Committee to Study the Future of the Deaconess Order

The Committee to Study the Future of the Deaconess Order, Dr. Carl C. Rasche, chairman, has held two meetings. The first, on September 12-13, "covered considerable ground and mapped out a tentative approach to the problem." The second, originally scheduled for January 15-16, was confined to one day due to absence of three members of the committee on account of illness. A third meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 3, at which time it is hoped to have a representative of the Board of Christian Education and Publication and the executive secretary of the Commission on Church and Ministry present for consultation.

The United Church of Christ

Life in the United Church of Christ and planning for its further deepening continue to move forward steadily at an encouraging pace.

The Executive Council held its first full-scale meeting October 10-11 at Cleveland. It has now organized for work through the following committees:

Administrative Committee. Mr. Ashby E. Bladen, Rev. Ben M. Herbster, co-chairmen, Rev. Fred Hoskins, Rev. Sheldon E. Mackey, Rev. James E. Wagner, Mrs. Judson E. Fiebiger; and, ex-officio as chairmen respectively of the Finance and Correlating Committees, Mr. William E. Peterson and Rev. John R. C. Haas.

Finance Committee. Mr. William E. Peterson, chairman, Rev. Alfred W. Swan, Mr. John W. Mueller, Mr. F. A. Keck.

Correlating Committee. Rev. John R. C. Haas, chairman, Rev. Albert G. Gonser, Mrs. E. Roy Corman, Rev. Alford E. Carleton, Rev. Albert B. Coe, Mrs. Axel Anderson.

Personnel Committee. Mr. Donald C. Dearborn, chairman, Mr. Allan G. Aigler, Rev. Jerry W. Trexler, Rev. Jesse H. Dollar.

Rules and Procedures Committee. Mrs. Judson E. Fiebiger, chairman, Mr. D. Howard Doane, Rev. Truman B. Douglass, Rev. John W. Flucke, Mr. Harold F. Webber, Rev. Sheldon E. Mackey.

Implementation of the Union moves forward at an increasingly encouraging rate. The following are items gleaned from reports of developments in various areas of activity and from the minutes of the Executive Council of the United Church of Christ.

1. The planning groups have held initial full-scale meetings as follows:- the Commission on Preparation of a Constitution, October 9-10, with a second meeting scheduled for April 8-9; the Commission to Prepare a Statement of Faith, October 24-25; the Committee on Methods of Solicitation, Collection and Distribution of Missionary, Benevolent and Administrative Funds, September 23 and November 21-22; and the Executive Council, October 10-11, with the next meeting scheduled for April 9-10.

2. In general persistent steps are being taken toward co-operative, joint, or virtually unified operations by the Home Missions, Foreign Missions and Social Action agencies so far as legal requirements and the restraints of the Structures Resolutions will permit.

3. The Rev. Fred S. Buschmeyer has resigned as Co-Secretary, due to his assumption of office as Executive of the Washington Office of the National Council of Churches. No one has as yet been chosen to succeed him, if indeed any one will be.

4. New outreaches of ecumenical witness and fellowship have come in the aftermath of the Uniting General Synod. The following are most significant:

a. The Disciples of Christ have accepted an invitation to appoint an observer to sit with the Commissions Preparing a Constitution and a Statement of Faith.

b. The United Church has been invited to send a fraternal delegate to the General Council of the United Church of Canada in Ottawa next September 17-26.

c. Outgrowth of the August 29 conference between the Co-Presidents of the United Church and Drs. Beckmann and Held of the Evangelical Church of the Union in Germany (EKU) has been issuance by the Executive Council (UCC) of a declaration of inter-communion with the EKU.

d. Second thoughts on the preceding development led the Executive Council's Administrative Committee to consider a conviction crystallized in our discussion by Dr. Herbster. It is that perhaps now would be an opportune time for the United Church to give a needed ecumenical testimony by directing to all our sister communions throughout the world an "open altars--open pulpits--open communion rails" declaration with special reference to the free access of all believers to the Lord's Table. Your President has written a first draft of such a communication and submitted it to Dr. Hoskins for study, and the Co-Presidents will have a draft jointly agreed upon to present at the next meeting of the Executive Council.

5. The United Church exhibit booth at the St. Louis Assembly of the National Council of Churches attracted considerable attention, and considerable numbers of the information leaflet available there were taken by the delegates.

6. Your President made a 20-minute statement to the National Council General Board at St. Louis on the Uniting General Synod, and appropriate recognition of the establishment of the United Church of Christ was made at that time.

7. The Executive Council's Administrative Committee meeting January 13 agreed on nominees to serve on the Committee of Nine to Study Realignment, Evangelical and Reformed nominees including the Rev. Dr. William L. Rest and the Rev. Charles D. Rodenberger, synod presidents; the Rev. Dr. Paul C. Schlueter, a pastor who is also chairman of the Constitution Commission's sub-committee on Associations and Conferences; and Mrs. Guy A. Benchoff, lay representative. Two conference superintendents, one pastor, and two lay representatives have been named as the Congregational Christian nominees. The Committee is recommending the Rev. Dr. Joseph H. Stein, superintendent of the Middle Atlantic Conference, to serve as Convener. That the Committee's task will not be a simple one is indicated by the need of it dealing with the ER Magyar Synod, the CC German Conference, and also a CC constituency of approximately 36,000 Negro communicants found mainly in 231 Negro churches most of which are in the Convention of the South (not to be confused with the Southern Convention).

8. The Joint Committee on a Journal for the United Church met December 4 in St. Louis. Tentative agreements were reached to (1) award the contract for printing the journal to a New York City firm, and (2) aim at publishing the first issue at a date approximating Pentecost Sunday. Considerable dissatisfaction has since been voiced by the Eden Publishing House Board and management and, even apart from this, serious question has been raised as to the true comparability of the respective estimates which were considered. Our Committee on Publications will be bringing this situation before us in detail.

9. The Office of Communication, as was anticipated in the September report of the President of the Church, is now formally requesting the Evangelical and Reformed Church to assume approximately $56,000 of the Office's 1958 budget, about 35 per cent of the whole. Some calculations by Dr. Mackey indicate that this really represents an additional expenditure of not more than $24,000 for the year, indeed perhaps as little as $6,000 of "new money", since it would cover what we are now devoting to major film production, radio and television as well as the $16,800 which we contributed to the Office's budget for 1957. Our agencies are learning to make increasing use of the Office of Communication, and while it may be felt that our use is not yet the equivalent of what is represented by one-third of the budget, the actual ratio would be difficult to evaluate; and it may be assumed that further increasing use of the Office will fully warrant our contributing so much more.

Further items recorded in the minutes of the October 10-11 meeting of the Executive Council include the following.

10. Dr. F. A. Keck, our faithful treasurer, was elected Treasurer of the United Church for the interim until next General Synod of the United Church, effective November 1, 1957.

11. Professor Ralph D. Hyslop, of Union Theological Seminary, New York City, was elected a member of the Commission to Prepare a Statement of Faith, succeeding President J. Seelye Bixler, who resigned. The election was made on nomination of the CC Advisory Committee.

12. The Executive Council concurred with the Constitution Commission in construing the responsibility of this Commission to include the preparation of By-Laws as well as Constitution.

13. The 10 members of our Commission on Church and Ministry and 10 persons named by the appropriate Congregational Christian source were elected as the Joint Commission on Church and Ministry, in accord with Vote 57 GS 39 at the Uniting General Synod.

14. Letters of commendation were sent to the Congregational Christian pastor in Levittown and the Evangelical and Reformed pastor in nearby Fairless Hills for their stand and leadership in the situation of racial tension which developed in Levittown, Pennsylvania, some months ago.

15. To facilitate deepening fellowship between congregations of the two uniting constituencies the Executive Council adopted the following resolution which, it would seem, ought to have concurring action by our General Council:

> That where a congregation of one communion is geographically isolated from the main concentration of its association or synod but within a concentration of congregations of the other communion, synods, associations and conferences are urged to encourage such congregations to assume associate relationships with them for purposes of fellowship in life and witness; but, in accord with the "structures resolutions", responsibilities of vote and support of missionary and benevolence budgets should be scrupulously reserved to the synod, or association and conference to which the congregation belongs.

16. To facilitate the calling of pastors from one of the uniting communions to serve churches in the other, the Executive Council voted to recommend the procedure described in Appendix 21, pages 125-126, of the Minutes of the Uniting General Synod. Previous actions of our General Council had anticipated this procedure.

17. Total expense of the Uniting General Synod was reported as $27,336.89, although some minor items may have turned up since the Executive Council meeting.

18. Each of the uniting constituencies was asked to make an additional contribution of $5,000 to the treasury of the United Church for the remainder of 1957.

19. Each constituency was asked to set aside $25,000 for use of the United Church of Christ in 1958, with the request that contributions be made within this amount to the Treasurer of the United Church on the request of the Treasurer and the approval of the Finance Committee of the United Church.

20. Mission House Theological Seminary, largely as a result of changed conditions brought about by implementation of the recommendations adopted by our General Council several years ago, has been giving serious study to its future. Its board, administrative staff and faculty now completely separated from those of Lakeland (formerly Mission House) College, the Seminary's program obviously included the possibility of relocation. Minneapolis has been mentioned as a likely place if relocation is decided upon. A clearly formulated plan and series of proposals was presented by Dean Gunnemann to the Executive Council which, on recommendation of its Correlating Committee, adopted the following:

> That the Commission on Higher Education (E&R) and the Division of Christian Education of the Board of Home Missions (CC) be asked to

study the documents submitted by the Mission House Seminary and, if considered advisable, to recommend to the Executive Council the means by which the plans for the development of that seminary may be perfected and support for them sought; bearing in mind at the same time the development of an adequate plan of relationship between the United Church of Christ and all seminaries related to it.

Pursuant to the foregoing recommendation a conference was held January 26 at Buck Hill Falls between Dean Louis H. Gunnemann, Dr. Edward Sayler, Dean of Yankton College School of Theology, Dr. Truman B. Douglass, Executive Vice President of the Board of Home Missions, the Rev. Philip M. Widenhouse, General Secretary of the (CC) Higher Education and American Missionary Association Division, and a Dr. Hoffman, identified as a member of the Yankton Board of Education (an identification which seems to me to be a little ambiguous). Several agreements were reached, according to a memorandum from Dean Gunnemann, as follows:

"1. Widenhouse, Sayler, Gunnemann, and one person to be appointed by the Evangelical and Reformed Commission on Higher Education, shall serve as a study group to gather further data about a possible joint effort between Mission House and Yankton to establish a new seminary; and that

"2. The Board of Home Missions will appropriate a sum up to $1000, with the expectation that the Commission of Higher Education of the Evangelical and Reformed Church will be asked to appropriate a like amount, thus making $2000 available for the engagement of a qualified person such as H. Richard Niebuhr or James M. Gustafson, with secretarial help, to gather needed additional data and to counsel the study group concerning the location of such a school; and that

"3. This data, along with that supplied by Mission House and Yankton, become the factual basis for a joint consultation on the matter of the reestablishment of the two schools by the United Church, the parties of the consultation to include the Boards or authorized representatives of Yankton and Mission House, representatives of the Board for Home Missions and the Division of Higher Education, representatives of the Commission on Higher Education and the General Council of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, and Synod Presidents and Conference Superintendents in the area of the United Church which the Study Group concludes as most likely for relocation; and that

"4. The conclusions reached in this consultation be forwarded to the Executive Council of the United Church with recommendations for action by appropriate agencies."

Our Commission on Higher Education, meeting the week of January 26 at Hood College, responded to the foregoing as follows: (1) concurs on the urgency of decision as soon as possible on the future of Mission House Seminary; (2) recommends that the Executive Council of the United Church appoint a joint committee to study the Mission House proposals and to this end to secure professional counsel; and (3) requests General Council to make the sum of $1,000 available as the Evangelical and Reformed Church's share in underwriting expenses of this study.

The President of the Church hopes that Dean Gunnemann may be able to be present when General Council discusses this matter. He ventures to express the

judgment that we owe Dean Gunnemann and his associates a vote of gratitude and confidence for the careful way in which they have been exploring the possibilities of the Seminary's future.

21. Negotiations continue looking toward possibility of our General Synod and the Second General Synod of the United Church being scheduled so that one follows immediately the other, thus, among other things, saving considerably in time and money. It is to be hoped that the dates will be set so as not to conflict with the date for the General Council of the Alliance of Reformed and Presbyterian Churches to be held in Campinas, Brazil, July 27 to August 7, 1959, since in all likelihood several of the persons who ought to attend the latter should be present also at the former.

22. The President of the Evangelical and Reformed Church suggested to the Executive Council at its October meeting that it would aid immensely in deepening the common life of the United Church if, effective January, 1960, the two communions, pending completion of the Constitution procedures, could launch a joint emphasis in "Evangelism, Life Enlistment and Church Extension". The Executive Council, on recommendation of its Correlating Committee, voted that "the Committee on Correlation (E&R) and the Missions Council (CC) be asked to make proposals to the Sub-Committee on Correlation in time for its April meeting, 1958, with reference to the series of emphases to be recommended for adoption by the General Synod (UCC) of 1959, to permit implementation in 1960, upon the conclusion of the current series of separate denominational emphases".

23. A significant example of co-operation between counterpart agencies is to be found in arrangements involving our Board of International Missions and the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. Dr.Dobbs F. Ehlman is designated as a "secretary of the American Board without portfolio and without salary". The Rev. Paul R. Gregory is under appointment as "Secretary-Designate of the American Board for work in the Pacific area with full responsibility in this position as from July 1, 1958", this responsibility to be in addition to that for our work in Japan and Hong Kong. Miss Margaret R. Blemker, daughter of an honored minister of the Evangelical and Reformed Church and Corresponding Secretary for the Middle East on the staff of the American Board, is designated as Associate Secretary for Iraq on the staff of our Board, "without salary but with expenses for travel and related administrative responsibilities paid by the Board of International Missions". Dr. Alford Carleton, Executive Vice-President of the American Board, was appointed as an advisory member of our Board of International Missions.

24. Some clarification is needed as to payment of travel expenses for members of the Committee of Fifty and its Executive Committee in the Board for Home Missions of the United Church of Christ, and similar acting administrative bodies for other agencies operating for the United Church. All that it would seem proper for General Council to do at this time would be to request the Executive Council of the United Church to consider this problem.

I conclude this section of my report with the affirmation that we have every reason to be encouraged as to the movement of life in the United Church toward ever-deepening reality. The lawsuit filed last June 20 by the anti-union group in the CC fellowship is still in the preliminary stage of motions and counter-motions. Our Counselor, Dr. John W. Mueller, will report the latest developments in this proceeding. The anti-union group, meanwhile, has attempted to stage a number of what it calls "councils of concern" through

which it apparently hopes to expand the organized opposition. I have heard of no such "council of concern" where the response was such as to cause us any real anxiety. Within our own fellowship only two churches,- Goss Memorial in Akron, Ohio, and First Church, Xenia, Ohio,- have taken formal steps to withdraw from the Evangelical and Reformed Church because of opposition to the union; and it has been pointed out to both that their action is irregular and, to say the least, premature, since they have predicated this action on the principles of the Basis of Union and Interpretations while, according to the "structures resolutions", we continue to operate under the Constitution and By-Laws of the Evangelical and Reformed Church.

On the other hand, each day brings fresh evidence of the way in which the realities of the United Church are receiving the affirmative response of people in both communions. As an example precisely opposite to the movements of disaffection referred to above one may cite the remarkable declaration issued the week of November 24 by 41 of the 48 clergymen making up the Twin Cities Congregational Ministers' Association of the St. Paul--Minneapolis area, affirming their commitment to the United Church and giving clear answers, paragraph by paragraph, to arguments put forward by opponents of the union. This is the Association within which are to be found the Rev. Howard J. Conn and Congressman Judd, both of whom have been outstanding spokesmen for the union opposition.

President Rest, of North Illinois Synod, has called my attention to a situation in which, it would appear, our position in the Evangelical and Reformed Church becomes increasingly untenable as the reality of the United Church increases. There are instances where heretofore independent churches have indicated an inclination to affiliate with the Evangelical and Reformed Church in anticipation of its being now a part of the United Church of Christ, with which they too wish to be identified. But,- understandable in the light of their independent traditions,- they hesitate to affiliate with us if even for this interim they must submit to the application of By-Law 16 with its property reversion clause. I believe that without jeopardizing our basic structure as it applies to churches now part of our communion or mission churches we establish, General Council could take an action suspending the operation of By-Law 16 in the case of any heretofore independent church which, as a first step toward becoming part of the United Church of Christ, is inclined to affiliate with us. We would thus be accepting any such church on the basis of constitutional provisions which will be effective for all our churches in a few years, the property reversion clause then becoming a thing of the past.

Disaffection in Pacific Northwest

Communications from the President of Pacific Northwest Synod (January 17) and the President of the West Coast Area (January 20) reflect a distressing element of disaffection which appears to involve five of the 19 churches in the synod.

"Behind all the cases of alienation except Toppenisch one can clearly see the influence of First Church, Portland", writes President Elshoff. "Where our churches in the Portland area have denominational leadership the influence is limited to an annoyance. Others fall easy prey. Of course, much of this is due to (historical circumstances). A bold act of surgery removing the diseased members might be the best solution in the long run for the health of our church in this area."

Regarding the situation at First Church, Portland, suit has been entered in the local courts looking toward reclamation of the property pursuant to the congregation's vote a year or two ago to withdraw from the Evangelical and Reformed Church. Lack of aggressive synodical administration a few years back probably accounts for the situation having got as far as it did, and the recent communication from the synod president indicates considerable reluctance on the part of the syncdical council to continue to press this case. The situation in the other four churches of the synod is described in the following paragraphs in the president's own words.

"The Hillsdale, Portland, congregation is drifting in the direction of First Church. For several years it has taken things into its own hands with little consideration of synod. I will not burden you with this now, only state that unless denominational leadership can be found soon we will have lost out.

"Zion Evangelical and Reformed Church of Toppenisch, Washington, is showing a strong trend of disaffection. There is a movement within the congregation to go over to the EUB Church. This movement does not find favor with synod for reasons that I do not find time to explain now. The congregation has gone backwards for a long time and there the root of the whole trouble has been the inability of our denomination to find them pastoral leadership. Things have progressed to a point of rebellion which is understandable.

"St. Paul's Church, Portland, has suffered for many years from lack of denominational leadership and has limped along with ministers of the emotional-fundamentalist approach. On August the twentyninth the congregation voted by secret ballot 25 to 1 to withdraw from the Synod and be independent. Instead of heeding my plea to work out a solution with the officers of synod they passed a motion to seek legal advice. The opinion of synod is that dissolution of the congregation is the only way out. No steps have been taken in that direction to date. I am satisfied that there is no hope for continuation in this instance.

"For a number of years the Emmanuel Church, R.1, Hillsboro, Oregon has been without denominational leadership. During my term as president we have tried to open the door for such leadership but our efforts have been in vain. For almost two years the congregation has ignored synod's counsel and secured its own leadership. It also named itself the Helvetia Community Church. Apparently it has washed its hands of all responsibility to the denomination. In September I received a letter with the following notation: 'Resolved, that the Helvetia Community Church accept the recommendation of the Church Consistory, and withdraw from the merger of the Congregational Christian Churches and the Evangelical and Reformed Church in forming the United Church of Christ, because of doctrinal differences. Voting was by secret ballot, so that all might freely express their own convictions. The vote was 28 for and one against, or 96.6% for and 3.4% against the resolution'. I replied that no congregation can take such unilateral action and requested a meeting of synod officers with the congregation. The request was not complied with but instead I was asked for a letter of clarification. This request has not been answered. I presented this matter to the Synodical Council and the Council felt that an answer should be given."

Would it be too much to request the Board of National Missions to ask its Western Field Secretary to visit this area and confer with the Synodical Council concerning the situation? It does not seem that the President and the Counselor of the Church should be burdened with added responsibility where by all that is traditional in our polity responsibility rests upon the synod and its synodical council.

Liaison Committee for Overseas Witness

The Liaison Committee set up with the encouragement of General Council to provide opportunity for mutual planning by the Board of International Missions and the Commission on World Service held a meeting at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on November 11. Members of the Committee include:- the Rev. Elmer H. Hoefer, the Rev. William C. Nelson, and Charles T. Bonos, for the Board; and the Rev. Louis W. Goebel, the Rev. Henry A. W. Schaeffer, and Daniel J. Snyder, Jr., for the Commission. Drs. Goebel and Hoefer were elected co-chairmen to preside at alternate meetings, Dr. Nelson being elected secretary. It was voted to meet normally twice a year, one meeting to be held in October, prior to establishment of Board and Commission budgets for the coming year. Next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for March 20 at the Schaff Building.

Understanding was reached that the Liaison Committee would have the responsibility to study the opportunities of the total overseas program of the Evangelical and Reformed Church and to make recommendations to both the Board and the Commission regarding that program; also to recommend to the Board and the Commission which of the two agencies should assume financial support for specific projects the jurisdiction over which seems to be indefinite; also to provide a means of common discussion and communication on projects which seem to overlap. It was felt that a major task of the Committee would be to examine and determine which of the many Board projects would properly fall within the scope of opportunity for support from Commission resources, and to make recommendations to both agencies.

By-Law 136 reads: "It shall be the duty of the Commission to render ministries of mercy in areas of need. Its responsibilities shall include, but not be limited to, inter-Church aid, defense services and disaster relief." The By-Law is quoted here in support of the growing conviction of the President of the Church that projects in "inter-Church aid" have as legitimate a claim on the resources and the interest of the Commission as do the "ministries of mercy in areas of need" which are more of an emergency character. This observation is not offered by way of any criticism, even veiled. It seems to be quite in keeping with what is happening in the World Council's Division of Inter-Church Aid and Service to Refugees where, as the most pressing emergency needs have tapered off, the Division has turned its attention more in the direction of strengthening the younger, weaker Churches especially in Asia and Africa. Since our Commission is our link with the DICASR and its counterpart in our denomination, it would seem quite appropriate that this changed situation should have its implications for our own program of World Service. It is believed that, since now at long last this Liaison Committee seems to have begun functioning, the overlappings and misunderstandings of the past, and by so much the inhibition of our total overseas impact, will be overcome and these two competent and consecrated agencies combine to strengthen the work and witness of the Evangelical and Reformed Church beyond our nation's boundaries.

Personnel Items

The following personnel items are submitted for the approval of General Council:

The Commission on Benevolent Institutions has elected Oscar C. Jud, of Detroit, to replace Walter Meck, resigned.

The Commission on Evangelism has elected Mrs. Guy A. Benchoff, of Woodstock, Virginia, to replace Mrs. Clair V. Rhodes, who resigned in order to be eligible to serve on the Board of Directors of the Women's Guild.

The Committee on Liturgics has chosen the Rev. C. Kent Chidester to succeed John Fesperman on the committee.

The Synodical Council and the Committee on Church and Ministry of North Illinois Synod, acting in accord with By-Law 25-c, join in requesting approval of General Council of the application of Robert E. Schroeder to be received as a Candidate for Ordination with the understanding that he must serve at least one year under Temporary License before he will be eligible for ordination. The applicant was brought up in the Evangelical and Reformed Church but during the past five years was out of our fellowship. During that time he was graduated from Wheaton College and from Trinity Theological Seminary of the Evangelical Free Church. Because of the unusual circumstances involved, I asked the North Illinois Synod to be especially careful in its examination of this young man. The President of the Synod reports as follows:

> "Our Committee and Council questioned him closely on his Theology. He is more conservative than the average man found in our Synod. We asked him as to his reasons for wishing to leave the fundamentalist groups and come into our denomination. His evident sincerity impressed the two groups very much as he gave these three answers:
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> "1- He wants to be in a group where his own conscience may be followed in interpreting scripture. By the same token he would also acknowledge the right of another to differ with him, if his position were arrived at through that same guidance of conscience.
>
> "2- He feels that the extreme emphasis on the Pre-mellenial coming of Christ is not in accord with the gospel stress on that teaching. In fact he feels that other views are possible on Christ's second coming. But in any event that is a secondary teaching of the scriptures.
>
> "3- He feels that there must be an outward unity to the followers of Christ in our critical days. He feels that the ecumenical movement has its best chance of achievement in the United Church of Christ.
>
> "I also asked him how far he would go along on a denominational program, if he personally did not agree with it. His answer was that so long as the decision was democratically arrived at and did not do violence to his conscience, he felt that he should co-operate, even though he might not personally agree with either goal or method.
>
> "With such an attitude, our Council and Committee is unanimous in feeling that there is a place for him in our fellowship."

General Council will wish to take note of the fact that as of January 1 the Rev. Paul E. Strauch assumed office as fulltime executive secretary of the Commission on Stewardship, establishing his office in the Schaff Building; and the Rev. James W. Bright was thus freed to devote full time to his responsibilities as associate secretary of the Commission on Evangelism. Dr. Bright had served the Commission on Stewardship for twelve years on a part-time basis.

Miscellaneous Items

Dr. John R. C. Haas. All of us will miss at this meeting the presence of our genial and efficient First Vice-President. Dr. Haas suffered a heart attack some weeks ago. Under date of January 23 he wrote as follows:

"At present the Doctor is permitting me to be up one hour three times a day and every few days is adding more time. I am doing quite well. They are streamlining me a bit by process of reducing weight, so it may be when we see each other you will hardly recognize the person you knew before.
"From every indication it should be possible for me to take the West Coast assignments; in fact the Doctor rather highly favors that, as it will take my mind away from routine church work for a longer period. I am expecting to be not only well again, but as he says, in better condition for the years to come than I have been in the more recent months.
"Will you kindly convey my greetings and best wishes to the members of the General Council and assure them that they will be much in my prayers during their meeting sessions."

The Rev. Charles E. Schaeffer, D.D., S.T.D., longtime general secretary of the Board of Home Missions of the former Reformed Church in the United States, was 90 years old on December 26. General Council will surely wish to felicitate him with an appropriate resolution. In a note Dr. Schaeffer sent recently to the Secretary of the Church Dr. Schaeffer called attention to the fact that January 19, 1963,- five years from now,- will be the 400th anniversary of the publication of the Heidelberg Catechism. He recalls that "a century ago the Reformed Church duly celebrated the 300th anniversary and issued a volume of papers and addresses entitled 'Tercentenary Monument of the Heidelberg Catechism', which is of great historical interest". Dr. Schaeffer suggests that consideration ought to be given to some celebration of this 400th anniversary, in which sentiment the President of the Church concurs, and recommends that the matter be referred to the Historical Society with the suggestion that Dr. Schaeffer's aid and counsel be invited in this matter.

The Commission on Benevolent Institutions submits the following:

"Resolved that the Commission on Benevolent Institutions petition the General Council to recognize the potential contribution of Christian Social Work in the Evangelical and Reformed Church by (1) granting a financial reduction in the tuition of an undergraduate student of Social Work in one of our colleges in exchange for a commitment to serve in an agency of the Evangelical and Reformed Church for a prescribed number of years, and (2) that a revolving loan fund be established in the church which can be drawn upon for financial assistance by Evangelical and Reformed students of Social Work on a graduate level."

The Commission has voted to approve the application of The Samaritan, 25 Seventh Street, N.W., Rochester, Minnesota, a nursing home owned and operated by the Brotherhood of Peace Church, Rochester, with Mr. Mark Carroll as manager and the Rev. Earl G. Buck as pastor. The Commission quotes Counselor Mueller as follows: "I have reviewed the constitution of The Samaritan, Rochester, Minnesota. It is my opinion that it meets the requirements of the Evangelical and Reformed Church for membership in the Commission on Benevolent Institutions. I believe this institution will become a valuable contributor to the program."

The Board of Business Management raises a question as to whether an adjustment with reference to the James I. Good Historical Fund in the amount of $5,000 should be made to the Board of Christian Education and Publication or to the Historical Society of the Evangelical and Reformed Church. The Board of Business Management, on the basis of the expressed intent of the James I. Good legacy, favors this adjustment going to the Historical Society but requests General Council to decide to which agency the $5,000 shall be paid.

Magyar Synod. Dr. Perry L. Smith, Field Secretary of the Department of United Promotion, recently completed an extended visitation among the churches of the Magyar Synod. He revealed the same kind of discerning analysis of life and work in that synod as he did concerning the Dakota and Rocky Mountain Synods. I have asked him to be prepared at this meeting to give General Council a report similar to the one he presented to our meeting last September.

Brussels Universal and International Exposition. Acting for the U.S. Conference for the World Council of Churches, Mr. Charles C. Parlin, a Methodist, and Mrs. Theodore O. Wedel, an Episcopalian, have issued an appeal for contributions from American communions toward costs of erection and maintenance of the Protestnat Pavilion at the Brussels Exposition. Perspective on this project may be gleaned from the following paragraphs in the Parlin-Wedel letter:

> "From April to November of 1958, more than 30 million people will be going to Brussels for the first great World's Fair since the one held in New York in 1939. The United States is constructing a multi-million dollar exhibit, along with most of the great nations. The Roman Catholic Church, through the Vatican, is building a pavilion which will cost more than two million dollars.
>
> "The Protestant community of Belgium is small: only 75,000. But it had the courage to take on its shoulders the creation of a Protestant Pavilion --an ecumenical exhibit. On faith these Protestants secured a site in the very heart of the exhibit area. They are constructing a pavilion which, though modest in size, is attractive in concept. After the Fair is over, it will have a permanent use as an ecumenical meeting center.
>
> "Devoted men and women of churches in many countries have been inspired to help these courageous people. Churches in Germany have given $50,000. An International Christian Committee has been formed to support the pavilion, and its U.S. section is this committee attached to the U.S. Conference for the World Council of Churches. We have just begun to work but already one major church has appropriated $5,000 before any official appeal has been presented to the churches.
>
> "We know you share our sense of urgency in this project to keep faith with the confidence the Belgian Protestant churches have put in the interest of fellow churches around the world."

The President of the Church feels that this appeal should have our most earnest consideration. The Protestant minority in Belgium deserves encouragement and support. Moreover, there is no doubt that by helping to undergird this project we will be contributing to the encouragement of Protestants in Europe who in so many countries there are minorities which, numerically speaking, are pitifully small, which have on occasion had to undergo hardship in holding to the faith which we hold precious, and who persist in bearing faithful witness to that evangelical conception of the Gospel the advancement of which in any part of the world is a matter in which we have a vital interest.

Czech Moravian Brethren. Pursuant to General Council instruction, the President of the Church wrote to the Rev. Daniel J. Marek, President of the Synodical Committee, Unity of the Czech-Moravian Brethren, with a view to exploring the possibility of closer relations with this small body. President Marek, in a letter dated January 17, replied in part as follows:

"Since you were of course interested in receiving at least something of a composite reaction of our people to this gesture on your part, I felt it would be best to postpone a reply until the Synodical Committee, our governing board between biennial conventions, had occasion to meet.

"After hearing your letter read, the Committee voted to designate our warm fraternal greetings to your communion, remembering that it was the Evangelical and Reformed Church which has educated some of our ministers over the years. This, plus the fact that our ministers and people have always experienced cordial relations with members of your communion here in Texas, has fostered a kindly spirit between the two groups.

"However, the Committee also felt that we are not ready to engage in anything more than friendly intercourse with other bodies of the Christian Church at this time. I repeat, it is not that we do not want to, but rather that we feel that we have not as yet reached the point of development at which this would be feasible or proper.

"Having been a 'language' church and being comparatively young in existence here in Texas, it has been just within the past few years that we have begun to develop on denominational basis. There is still much which needs to be done. It is the general feeling that this development can best be done with the present arrangements.

"Nevertheless, if there are areas of activity in which we could cooperate with members of your Synod here in Texas to our mutual benefit, we would be happy to consider such possibilities.

"May I state again our sincere appreciation of your expression of interest."

Manual on Placement Procedures. President William L. Rest, of North Illinois Synod, has done an excellent piece of work in the writing and publication of a booklet entitled "A Manual of Placement Procedures in the Evangelical and Reformed Church - for the Guidance of Congregations, Pulpit Committees and Ministers in filling vacant Pulpits". A second printing is being planned, in preparation for which typographical errors in the first are being corrected, and perhaps other minor changes made. I have suggested to Dr. Rest that it would be helpful if he would send a copy of the Manual to each of our Synod Presidents. General Council should express its appreciation to Dr. Rest for this work.

Conclusion

I always come to the conclusion of the semi-annual report with the uneasy feeling that I have probably omitted matters which should have been included. Moreover, to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the

truth, I come to this point with a sigh of relief that the onerous task is completed. Then, as so often happens when the routines of the presidency weigh heavy, I take a long look out of my office window over the city skyline and in a moment of half-prayer, half-meditation, remind myself that the items which make up any one of these reports represent the very stuff of which the Church is made,- human stuff, routine stuff, ecclesiastical mechanics and machinery, technical administrative problems, pastoral and lay situations which never seem to fit quite exactly what the Constitution and By-Laws endeavor to anticipate,- and that, if we have eyes to see, it is this kind of human stuff on which the miracle of God's grace is ever operating, generation after generation, and out of it fashioning that "elect race, royal priesthood, holy nation, peculiar people" (I Peter 2:9) which is His Church. Perhaps our prayer in these semi-annual deliberations should be that the great Lord of the Church may enable us to see beyond the detail and routine the throbbing heart and life of that portion of His people over whom He has given us the oversight.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES E. WAGNER, President.

PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE, September 14, 1957 - February 10, 1958

September 15 - St. Paul, Minn., St. Paul Church, TWO SERMONS
16-19 - St. Paul, Minn., General Council meetings
22 - Bethlehem, Pa., Calvary Church, 40th anniversary, SERMON
29 - A.M., Catasauqua, Pa., Salem Church, 105th anniversary, SERMON
P.M., Glenside, Pa., Glenside Church, Dedication, SERMON
30 - New York City, N.Y., National Council Nominating Committee

October 1 - Lancaster, Pa., Inauguration Ceremony for Dr. Moss, Seminary
2-3 - New York City, N.Y., National Council General Board
9-10 - Cleveland, Ohio, Commission to Draft a Constitution (UCC)
10 - Evening, Cleveland, Ohio, Executive Council, United Church
11 - Cleveland, Ohio, Executive Council, United Church
13 - A.M., New Haven, Conn., Center Church, SERMON
P.M., New Haven Association meeting of the Congregational Christian Churches, ADDRESS
14-17 - Sioux Falls, S.D., American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, ADDRESS
17 - P.M., Menno, S.D., Salem Church, 75th Anniversary, SERMON
20 - St. Louis, Mo., Frieden's Church, Centennial, TWO SERMONS
21-22 - New York City, Deposition to lawyers in anti-merger suit
24 - Pittsburgh, Pa., Commission to Draft a Statement of Faith (UCC)
26 - Lebanon, Pa., St. Stephen's Church, 50th anniversary banquet, ADDRESS
27 - Afternoon, Old Goshenhoppen Church, 225th anniversary, SERMON
Evening, Reading, Pa., Union Reformation Day Service, SERMON
29 - Cleveland, Ohio, Joint meeting ER Commission on Christian Social Action and CC Council of Social Action

November 2 - Fremont, Ohio, Consistorial Conference for area, ADDRESS
3 - Fremont, Ohio, First Church, Centennial, A.M., TWO SERMONS, Afternoon, reception
Evening, Findlay, Ohio, College First Church of God, SERMON
4 - Findlay, Ohio, ADDRESS student assembly, Findlay College
6 - A.M., New York City, Conference with Dr. Hoskins
P.M., Philadelphia, Pa., First Christian Church, Banquet ADDRESS
8 - Lancaster, Pa., Seminary, ADDRESS Seminary Seniors, Seminary Visitors & Corporation meeting on development program
11 - Pittsburgh, Pa., Liaison Committee
17 - Havertown, Pa., St. James Church, SERMON
19-22 - St. Louis, Mo.
19 - Opening devotions, Women's Guild Quadrennial Meeting
National Missions luncheon for Dr. Weiler and Dr. Snyder
National Missions dinner for the Revs. Lippy, Greene & Mr. Burchardt
20 - Administrative Committee meeting
Women's Guild Dinner
21 - ADDRESS to Eden Seminary Seniors
Eden Publishing House
Commissioning Service, Women's Guild
22 - Women's Guild, Installation of officers and closing commitment service

November 29-
December 6 - St. Louis, Mo.
29 - National Council, Policy and Strategy Committee
30 - National Council, General Board
1 - Hope Church, SERMON
4-6 - General Assembly, National Council
4 - Meeting of Joint Committee on paper for United Church; ER-CC dinner at Deaconess Hospital
5 - Deaconess Hospital, annual dinner and business meeting of Evangelical Deaconess Society
8 - Lancaster, Pa., St. Peter's Church, ER Career Conference, SERMON
10 - New York City, N.Y., Executive Committee of U.S. Conference, World Council, Luncheon and Board of Directors meeting, Friends of the World Council
13 - Embarked on Africa trip

January 9 - Returned from Africa trip
10 - A.M., Press Conference re Africa trip
Afternoon, television interview re Africa trip
12 - Leacock, Pa., Salem Church (Heller's), Ground breaking for new church school unit, SERMON
Lancaster, Pa., St. Peter's Church, Sunday School, ADDRESS, Dedication of Memorials
13 - Cleveland, Ohio, Administrative Committee of the Executive Council (UCC)
14 - Cleveland, Ohio, Commission on Evangelism
17 - Philadelphia, Pa., Luncheon for Dr. Weiler
19 - Washington, D.C., Concordia Church, 125th Anniversary, SERMON
21-23 - Pocono, Pa., North American Area of Alliance
23 - P.M., Pottsville, Pa., Opening service of interdenominational pre-Lenten preaching services, SERMON
28 - Philadelphia, Pa., Annual meeting of Corporators of the Presbyterian Ministers' Fund
29 - Upper Montclair, N.J., Union Congregational Church, ADDRESS
30 - Lancaster, Pa., Seminary, ADDRESS on Africa

PERSONNEL MATTERS

APPLICATION FOR PRIVILEGE OF CALL APPROVED BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

Rev. Siegfried Samuel Lemke, 1007 Eighth Avenue, N.E., Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Age 55. Achooling: Shitomir and St. Petersburg in Russia, and Institute of Foreign Languages, Moscow. Ordained by the Evangelical Church Altpreussische Union in 1926. Married. Can preach in English, German, Russian and Ukranian. References:Rev. Schoenhaar, Rev. Reineking, Deacon Kappesser of Algen, Rheinhessen, Germany, and Pastor Biegler of Sprendlingen, Rheinhessen, Germany.

APPLICATION FOR PRIVILEGE OF CALL APPROVED BY A MAIL VOTE OF THE ADMINISTRAIVE COMMITTEE

Rev. Walton Walker Rankin, 300 Rively Avenue, Glenolden,Pennsylvania. Age 51. Schooling: Grammar School, Junior High, High School and College (Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio). Oberlin Graduate School of Theology, Union Theological Seminary. Ordained by the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. in 1938. Married, no children. References: Rev. George Dillinger, Rev. John C. Heater, Rev. Vincent Bucher and Rev. James E. Wagner.

APPLICATIONS FOR PRIVILEGE OF CALL MADE BY CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN MINISTERS AND APPROVED BY DR. WAGNER.

Rev. Ward J. Fellows, 2810 N. Ballas Road, Kirkwood 22, Missouri. Age 43. Schooling: Claremont High School, Cornell University, Union Theological Seminary. Ordained by Congregational Christian Church in 1939. Married. References: Dr. Paul H. Rahmeier, W. A. Wirth, Rev. Calvin P. Fischer.

Rev. Armin Henry Roemer, 1712 N. 17th St., Sheboygan, Wisconsin, Age 40. Schooling: Public School and High School, Wolseley, Saskatchewan, Canada. Mission House Seminary and St. Stephen's, Edmonton, Canada. Ordained by Evangelical and Reformed Church under Dakota Synod in 1948. Can preach in English and German. Married, one daughter. References: Rev. C. D. Maurer, Rev. Ralph Ley, Dr. J. Friedli, Rev. Armin Dukow and Rev. Purd E. Dietz.

Rev. Auburn Franklin Haggard, Lucas, Ohio. Age 48. Schooling: Anthony Wayne College, International Accountants Society, Merom School for Pastors, Merom College, and Midwestern Graduate School. Ordained by Western Association of the Indiana Conference of Congregational Christian Churches in 1947. Married, 5 sons, 4 are married. References: Rev. Harold Klingel, Rev. John Melchart, Rev. Frank J. Lowenbergh.

Rev. Mrs. Helen L. Herbrecht, 5710 Linwood Avenue, Cleveland 3, Ohio. Age 55. Schooling: Grade School in Kansas, Georgia and Massachusetts, High School in Massachusetts and Kansas; College at University of Chicago. Theological training at University of Chicago and Ryder Divinity School. Ordained by Universalist and given reciprocal fellowship by Congregationalists in 1925. Widow - Married son and daughter. References: Chaplain G. S. Thilking, H. Richard Bucey, R. W. Raber, R. W. Case.

APPLICATION FOR PRIVILEGE OF CALL

Rev. Peter Young, 3403 Gough Street, Baltimore 24, Maryland. Age 27.

Schooling: Newtown High School, Albright College, United Theological Seminary. Ordained by the Evangelical United Brethren Church in 1956. Married, three children. References; Dr. Charles E. Roth, Rev. Richard E. Dettrey.

Rev. Alfred Otto Gresse, Box 524, Powhatan Point, Ohio. Age 55. Schooling: German Public School, Berlin; Mission Seminary, Bad Liebenzell, Wurttemberg, Germany; Studied Chinese, First examination in C.I.M. Training Home, Anking, Anwhei, China; Other five at Mission Station for which I have my Certificate. Studied also Buddhism, Taoism, Shintoism, Confucianism and Mohammedanism. Ordained with the laying on of hands of the presbyters in the Protestant Mission in 1931. Holds membership in Presbyterian Church. Preaches in German and Chinese. References: Rev. Reinhard Lehmann, Rev. J. Stanley Richards, Rev. Kirby Jenquin.

REPORT ON VISIT TO MISSIONS IN AFRICA

December 13, 1957 to January 8, 1958

By Dr. James E. Wagner

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I begin the writing of this report on the last day of my stay in Africa. As I look back not only on the visit now ending but on the other two overseas, all of which have been made within thirteen months, I am deeply grateful to our heavenly Father that He has brought me through them all with no travel accidents, no illness due to climate or strange foods, and has given me health and endurance sufficient to carry me through schedules which were usually crowded and arduous and exacting both mentally, spiritually and physically. Moreover, I am grateful to Mrs. Wagner and to my secretary, Mrs. L. F. Kerschner, both of whom have had added burdens incident to my long absences from home and office and both of whom by their patience and devotion have made it easier for me to bring these visits to reasonably successful conclusion.

The occasion is not at all likely to occur again during my time as President of the Church, when it would be necessary or advisable to attempt in scarcely more than a year such a schedule of three overseas missions visits. The three now completed have involved a total of approximately 55,000 miles of travel, approximately 48,000 by air, around 4,000 by sea, the remainder mostly by jeep or car over roads which for dustiness and rough surface were hardly comparable to the worst country lanes I have known. The visit to the Far East, - Japan, Korea, Okinawa, Formosa, Hong Kong and the Philippines, - covered just about 25,000 miles; to Honduras and Ecuador, about 8,000; and this to Lisbon, Portugal, the Union of South Africa, Ghana and French Togoland, about 22,000. I have now visited five of the seven mission fields where we have personnel at work.

I look back on these visits with certain general impressions vivid in mind and memory:- (1) an awareness of the rising young Churches which are the fruit of mission passion and labour over the past century and a half; (2) a clearer understanding of the actual strategy on the scene, the problems and frustrations, and the exceeding devotion of those who, for Christ's sake and in our stead, carry on the work of world evangelization under the continuing imperative of the Great Commission; and (3) a fresh and inspiring realization of the actuality of "the holy Catholic Church" as its life and work deepen as a result of the impulse given by the modern ecumenical movement. I am grateful to the Church which, with the encouragement of General Council and the original urging of my beloved predecessor Dr. Louis W. Goebel, has made possible these visits, and in this connection hope only that my service in office will be sufficiently wiser and more devoted so as to justify the opportunity which has thus been given me.

Lisbon, Portugal

When it became known that my route would involve a change of planes at Lisbon, Portugal, it seemed desirable to take advantage of this fact to secure an acquaintance with the evangelical Christian community in that predominantly Roman Catholic country and to share whatever fellowship might offer with our brethren and sisters there. Through the good offices of Dr. Marcel Pradervand, general secretary of the World Alliance of Reformed and Presbyterian Churches, the Rev. Michael P. Testa, native of Scranton, Pennsylvania, but with parentage of Italian Waldensian background, was my host and guide for the week-end of December 14-16. I was guest at a reception tendered by the executive committee of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Portugal. This was held in a social room of the Campo

d' Orique Presbyterian Church, to which I returned on Sunday morning to bring a brief message of greeting to the Portuguese congregation which worships there. Later that morning I was privileged to preach to the St. Andrew's Church of Scotland congregation with the Rev. Canon Alan Davidson as my host.

The total Protestant constituency of Portugal is only about 22,000 which includes about 9,500 communicants, in a national population of around 9,000,000. Largest Protestant group is that of approximately 2,000 communicants of the Pentecostal Assemblies of God. There are smaller contingents of Baptists (five different kinds!), Plymouth Brethren, Lusitanians (Portuguese "Anglicans"), Methodists, Congregationalists (only about 200), and Seventh Day Adventists.

Presbyterians are second highest in number among the Protestants, with about 1,500 communicants. The Portuguese Presbyterian Church is a member of the World Alliance, and, small though it is, appears on at least two counts to constitute the vital core of Portuguese Protestantism. For one thing, it has taken the lead in forming, with the Lusitanians and the Methodists, a sort of interdenominational committee for cooperative endeavor somewhat in resemblance of a national council of churches, and perhaps the seed out of which eventually such a council can be achieved.

Major symbol and instrument of Presbyterian leadership in Portuguese Protestantism is to be found in what is known as the Presbyterian Board of Cooperation in Portugal. This agency is sponsored jointly by the American Presbyterian Churches (USA and US) and the Presbyterian Church of Brazil. Participation of the latter is to be understood in view of the close historical, linguistic and cultural ties between Brazil and Portugal.

Executive Secretary of this Board is Dr. Testa, assigned by American Presbyterians nine years ago as a "fraternal worker" in Portugal. Under his leadership the cooperative Board sponsors a small Protestant hospital which specializes in surgery and obstetrics, and an interdenominational theological seminary at Chalet Louise, Carcavelos near Lisbon, in which at present 21 students are enrolled, some of them native students from Portuguese Africa. There is a cooperative relationship also with an orientation center in Lisbon for all foreign missionaries planning to work in Portuguese territories overseas. The Cooperative Board's next hope is establishment of a Christian Youth Hostel especially in order to serve university students in Lisbon from Portuguese Africa.

This week-end in Lisbon rekindled a conviction which has grown upon me with each overseas visit since my ten weeks in Europe in the summer of 1955, namely, that one area of "inter-church aid" which should be high on the list of priorities of both International Missions and World Service is the necessity of strengthening, with funds or personnel as opportunities offer and resources permit, the sometimes pitifully small but wondrously stedfast Protestant minorities in predominantly Roman Catholic countries. As I see this, it would be not simply to subsidize the continuing existence of these Protestant minorities just in pity for their minority plight, but that their potential may be increased to become an "open door" to vast numbers in those lands who were baptized Roman Catholic but who, other than that incident usually of their infancy, have had no vital and redeeming relationship with the Church which lays claim to them as part of its constituency.

The Union of South Africa

Since I was to be going down as far as Ghana, I took the liberty of including a visit to the Union of South Africa, mainly Johannesburg and Durban, for two reasons:- one, to get a first-hand glimpse of the workings of the Union's government policy of apartheid (aparthood, segregation of "Europeans" from "non-Europeans") which has become a sober concern of the World Council and the World Alliance; and, two, in view of the establishment of the United Church of Christ, that as Co-President, I might share the fellowship of American Board Missionaries at work in the Union and see something of what they are doing in that field. I have written one major article for Advance reporting some experiences and observations while in South Africa.

An American Board "Valedictory"

At noon of the day I arrived in Johannesburg, with the Rev. Lee D. Bergsman, American Board missionary, as my host, I listened to a Rotary Club address by the Rev. Dr. Ray E. Phillips who with his wife, after 40 years service in Johannesburg, was to enter on retirement a few days later, returning to the States. It was a remarkable story of what I suppose would be a characteristic American approach to the social, educational and recreational plight of the African populace of Johannesburg and the 250,000 African workers at that time employed in the local gold mines. Playgrounds for children of the slums, recreational programs for the workers isolated in mine compounds and victims of the worst vices found when men live apart from normal human relationships, Boy Scouts now enrolling 16,000 in South Africa, associations for girls which now enroll 36,000, various joint organizations for Africans and non-Africans in hope of bridging something of the political and cultural abyss between the two; clubs for African girls, factory employees, nurses, students, domestic workers; a home for delinquent girls; the Bridgman Memorial Hospital which was for a time "the only maternity hospital for non-European women in Johannesburg"; and the Hofmeyr School of Social Work which Dr. Phillips headed and in which 250 non-Europeans have been trained and are now employed "in some thirty different types of social welfare activities from Capetown to Kenya". And beyond and through all his organizational activities, Dr. Phillips had lived and worked on the Christian assumption that all human beings of whatever race are children of God and therefore brothers, souls for whom Christ died and worthy of this world's best; and that day he crowned such a ministry with a farewell witness marked by courage and conviction which impressed me as being Christian in the fullest sense of the word.

Johannesburg

Through the kindness of Mr. Bergsman over the next day or so I toured some of the segregated housing areas set up by the national government. In Johannesburg alone at least 600,000 Africans will eventually have been moved to these outlying areas, so far out that the problems of transportation and of convenient access to work or marketing in the city contrive to fan the flames of resentment which one cannot help but feel are smouldering underneath the surface in Johannesburg and elsewhere in the Union.

Mr. Bergsman and I spent an hour and a half with Dominie C. B. Brink, one of the leading clergymen of the Dutch Reformed Church in South Africa, moderator of the church in the Transvaal. While this visit was made in part as a matter of courtesy and to renew acquaintance originally made in World Council and World Alliance meetings, I, frankly, hoped also that our conversation might

reflect continuing concern on the part of a fellow church executive that the Dutch Reformed Church would not fail in its Christian witness with respect to national policy, and that, further, I might learn what progress the Church might be making toward that end. It is no easy situation in which the Dutch Church finds itself in South Africa, since most if not all of the government leaders are members of that Church. Moreover, one suspects that a traditionally conservative theology has made it all the more difficult for the Church to distinguish the Christian imperatives implicit in the apartheid policy. Further, the primitive habits and behaviour of many of the Africans who have moved into the urban areas do constitute problems in the way of a Christian solution to interracial relations in South Africa. I came away from this visit with Dominie Brink with considerable assurance that, although for these and other reasons the Dutch Church in South Africa has been slow to respond with a genuine Christian witness in the situation prevailing there, it has found it impossible not to move in the direction of such a witness; and Dominie Brink himself expressed the hope that by the time of the next General Council of the Alliance in 1959 and the General Assembly of the World Council in 1960 the Dutch Church in South Africa would have completed formulation of the witness on which they have been and are now working, and in it would elicit an approving response from worldwide Christendom.

Durban

While in Durban I was the guest of Dr. and Mrs. Alan B. Taylor. Dr. Taylor, an American Board missionary, is head of 330-bed McCord Zulu Hospital, named for its founder, Dr. James B. McCord, another earlier American Board missionary. Through Dr. Taylor's long and persistent efforts since he went out first in 1921, aided and abetted by Dr. McCord until his retirement around 1940, a medical school for training African doctors has been established in Durban, McCord Hospital offering adjunct training to its students and graduates; at McCord more than 200 African girls are regularly in training as nurses, and, again through McCord-Taylor persistence, now graduate as nurses fully certificated by appropriate government agencies.

Moving on occasion out of Durban I spent several hours on the grounds where for 104 years Adams College, an American Board institution, had done its work until early in 1957 it was refused permission to continue, its facilities taken over by the "apartheid" government and the school transformed into a teacher-training school for Africans who will teach Africans only and within limits rigidly prescribed by the government in pursuance of its fantastic policy. This institution is located fifteen or twenty miles out of Durban.

An overnight was spent at Inanda Seminary, about 20 miles north of Durban, where around 270 native girls are usually enrolled, and where now also, although they have not been forced to discontinue, the educational program must be carried on under increasingly difficult requirements and restrictions resulting from the government's racist policy.

I regret that time did not permit visits to other American Board work being carried on in Southern Rhodesia and Angola, but this full week in South Africa offered a real opportunity toward some measure of accomplishing the original purposes for including it in my itinerary.

Congregationalism in South Africa

To make the picture of Congregationalism in South Africa a little more

complete I should add that there are really two Congregational fellowships in South Africa. One is the Congregational Union of South Africa which, according to Mr. Bergsman, includes approximately 4,000 white members in its constituency, 10,000 Africans, and 45,000 "coloured" (mixed blood, variously Hottentot, Malay, Bushman, African and "European", the latter being present-day South Africa's jargon for all "pure white" people). I did not check with Mr. Bergsman on this, but I would guess that this Congregational fellowship has roots in English Congregationalism.

The other Congregational fellowship, the Bantu Congregational Church in South Africa, is the fruit of American Board Missionary effort among Africans. Its communicant membership approximates 15,000 (its total constituency doubtless three or four times that many), served by 40 pastors each of which has a "home church" and from 10 to 35 branches to minister to, somewhat after the pattern of the "pastoral district" to be described later in connection with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Ghana.

Percentage-wise, Congregationalism does not figure large in South Africa. A break-down of white South African church affiliation in 1951 showed 53% Dutch Reformed, 15% Anglican, 8% Methodist, 5% Roman Catholic, 3% Presbyterian, and Congregationalism part of the remainder not specified. But Congregationalism appears to me to be one of the Christian constituencies which in South Africa has born witness to the essential brotherhood which present national policy denies, and has done so simply by going forward with its life and work as if it had never even thought of Christian witness entertaining any concept of one race of human beings being inferior, another superior, but all alike God's children and therefore brothers.

Our Missions in Africa

Arriving in Accra around 1:30 Christmas morning after more than 3,000 miles, about eleven hours, flying from Johannesburg, with only one refuelling stop at Leopoldville, Belgian Congo, I was met at the airport by Missionary George R. Snyder and Moderator Galevo of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Trans-Volta Togoland. They took me to the Ambassador Hotel where I could catch up on some lost sleep, and early Christmas afternoon we set out for Peki Blengo. Thus began my 12-day tour of our missions in Africa.

Both geography and political history are necessary to an understanding of the setting in which our mission work is done. Accra, capital of Ghana which since last March 6 has been an independent state of the British Commonwealth with dominion status similar to that of Canada, is located on the coast about midway between where the coastline of Africa along the South Atlantic curves westward around the Gulf of Guinea, and where at Cape Palmas it turns northward again on the great curved line leading up to Morocco and the Strait of Gibraltar.

Maps of Africa published after World War I but prior to last March will show on the westward side of the Volta River what are labelled the Gold Coast, above it Ashanti, and, eastward of the Volta, British Togoland and over the whole north above these the so-called Northern Territories. All of this is now Ghana. Between it and Dahomey further east is the long narrow strip of country which still bears the name of French Togoland.

Most of this was once part of Germany's West African colonial enterprise. World War I changed that, and what is now French Togoland was made a French mandate or trusteeship under the League of Nations, what is now the Trans-Volta

Togoland being then similarly turned over to British control. Substantially the same arrangement continued after World War II under the United Nations, if I understand the detail with reasonable correctness, not having had time to brush up adequately on the political history of the area.

The same combination of historico-political circumstances accounts also for the fact that work which had begun in Trans-Volta Togoland in 1847 by missionaries from the Bremen Society, and in the Gold Coast and Ashanti by the Basel Mission, after World War I was taken over by the Scottish Mission (Church of Scotland) and the Paris Missionary Society (Reformed Church of France), although several Bremen missionaries were permitted to return and did so for a while. When financial and personnel resources of the Scottish and Paris Missions were depleted as a result of World War II they joined with the native churches in the French and former British territories to request the Evangelical and Reformed Church to "come over into this African Macedonia and help us".

Our response to that call began to be made in the very early 'forties but could not be implemented until World War II ended, and became an actuality when, on December 22, 1946, the Rev. and Mrs. Eugene E. Grau landed at Accra to begin their work.

Now, after only eleven years, it is striking to note that, second only to Japan, the largest concentration of our missionaries anywhere in the world is found in Ghana and French Togoland, 32 in all, with several others under appointment.

Accra is a good point from which to get your bearings geographically as to where our mission work in Africa is located. From this city, on the Gold Coast, you will have to get across the great Volta River, Ghana's hope for electrical power and subsequent industrial and agricultural development; for our missionaries in Ghana are all working in what used to be British Togoland, Trans-Volta Togoland, while one missionary couple, the Rev. and Mrs. Charles T. Hein, are in what is still the protectorate of French Togoland lying farther to the east.

About 84 miles northeast from Accra, not as the crow flies but as the road winds in a sort of fish-hook pattern, is Adidome. Begin again at Accra, travelling almost directly north, 86 miles to Peki Blengo, another 85 miles to Worawora; and then, from that northernmost point where so far Evangelical and Reformed missionaries are at work, south to Ho it is 83 miles, and from Ho another 45 miles brings you to Adidome. Within that Trans-Volta triangle, Accra to Adidome its baseline, Worawora its northern apex, all of our missionaries save the Heins are at work. About a hundred miles east of Ho lies Atakpame, French Togoland, where the Heins are at work.

Adidome

At Adidome is the 48-bed hospital where Dr. and Mrs. Elmer W. Whitcomb, Dr. Margot Windisch (a German physician from Bethel bei Bielefeld), Dr. and Mrs. (who is a nurse) Richard C. Braun, and nurses Miss Dorothy Williams and Miss Martha M. Schlinkmann are stationed. To get the picture of the hospitals at Adidome and Worawora you must not think of a great large building or several of them housing many wards, laboratories, and utility sections. Rather, you must visualize a whole colony of separate, one-story buildings each housing one ward or a series of large rooms serving as closely related units such as clinics, dispensaries, injection rooms, X-ray, or the service utilities. Construction is usually of concrete block with plastered exterior, corrugated aluminum roofing (reflecting the heat).

At Adidome some twelve major buildings and several smaller utility units occupy 240 acres bordering on the Volta River. Among others are a men's ward, women's ward, private room ward intended for maternity and pediatrics with two or three patients in each room; an administration building housing the out-patient department, consultation rooms, library, dispensary, offices, and X-ray room; a combined laundry and kitchen building, two doctor's residences, one nurse residence including three apartments, two hostels for African staff (48 African employees at present), and an engine house and garage.

Dr. Whitcomb began work in the fall of 1955 in an old building in the village. The new hospital was opened last September 8, construction having been made possible by government grants of approximately $225,000.

Peki Blengo

Peki Blengo is the seminary where the Rev. and Mrs. George R. Snyder and Miss Esther May Reimold are "holding the fort" while the Rev. and Mrs. Eugene E. Grau, our first missionaries in Africa, are on furlough. The seminary is not exactly a theological seminary in the American use of the word, a fact which is indicated by the native church's requirement that ordinarily their candidates for ordination must take the 3-year course at Trinity Theological College in Kumasi. Yet Peki Blengo is a theological seminary where last year 31 students preparing to be catechists and evangelists were given comprehensive and intensive courses in Old and New Testaments, church history, Christian ethics, Christian education, homiletics and practice preaching, parish methods in keeping with native culture and traditions, and other courses usually found in the theological seminary curriculum. Further detail on these two types of unordained parish workers as well as on the process leading to ordination will be given in a later section of this report headed "Life and Work in the Native Churches".

The seminary is located on a hillside campus of perhaps 40 acres (Dr. Snyder's estimate), its facilities including a classroom building containing two large and one small classrooms, the library, and an office; a 4-room dormitory which can "sleep" 35 students with beds in ward-like arrangement, a few of them "double-deckers"; a building housing the dining-room which is used also for visual aids projection; one missionary teacher's residence and a residence for the African member of the faculty; and, down in the town of Blengo, another house at present occupied by Miss Reimold.

Worawora

Institution-wise, Worawora (race through that word, putting the accent each time on the "ra") is our major station in Africa. In that town Dr. Christfried Reinhold Doering began work in temporary quarters on June 15, 1951, and now, after less than seven years, the hospital occupies a hillside (figures on size of area not available when I was there) looking down over the town, and on that hillside twenty or more buildings constitute what has been an 84-bed, but which after January 15 with the opening of a new ward building was to be an 108-bed, general and TB hospital.

One building housing dispensary, injection room, store room for general supplies, and a classroom to be used for the nurses' training school which it is hoped to establish, was built by the town at a cost of about $16,800. The government of British Togoland (now a part of Ghana) provided additional buildings with grants approximating $224,000.

Of special interest is the X-ray room fully equipped, and rooms for closely related purposes, and the TB ward building for 32 patients, installations which were made possible by a grant of $30,000 from Faith Church, Philadelphia.

Some idea of how busy the staff is may be gleaned from the fact that the day I toured the hospital the case-record file showed that Worawora had treated 40,854 patients since its opening in temporary quarters, and in that total, according to Dr. Doering, not more than 300 names were duplicated. In addition to Dr. Doering, the staff at present includes Dr. and Mrs. Edward N. Moser, and the Misses Jean Nagel, Dolores J. Harkins and Mabel P. Burket, registered nurses. Mrs. Doering and their children are in Germany, and Sister Elfriede Bubigkeit (German nurse) is on furlough. The Rev. and Mrs. Daniel J. Schler, whose last Africa address was Worawora, are in the States due to Mr. Schler's illness, and their return is hopefully anticipated by the staff now on the field.

Ho

Ho is a very little word, not a very big place, but in some ways the heart and center for our African mission. From Ho the road leads eastward one hundred miles to Atakpame in French Togoland, where the Heins are at work. Ho is the home and office of Albert A. Schwenke, that consecrated former Milwaukee layman who is treasurer, at that Church's request, of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Trans-Volta Togoland, and a sort of "court of last resort" to whom our missionaries seem frequently to repair. At Ho are the administrative offices of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, and there also is the Mawuli School headed since its opening by the Rev. Walter P. Trost.

A few days around the national church's offices there clearly indicated what a vital contribution a layman like Al Schwenke can make when he consecrates his technical training and down-to-earth commonsense to the work. His wife, in addition to managing the missionary home where "visiting firemen" like myself add to her domestic responsibilities, has initiated a program which not inappropriately might be characterized as "occupational therapy" for women lepers at the leper settlement located just outside the town. How some of those women, practically finger-less, manage to ply their knitting needles is a marvel to behold; and to see their faces light up when Mrs. Schwenke appeared with me as we toured the settlement was ample evidence of the redeeming spirit she has brought to this ministry which her own sensitivity and imagination initiated.

One of the most dramatic developments at Ho has been the Mawuli School which Mr. Trost opened in January, 1950, in an old building which was once a "middle school" dormitory of the Bremen Mission. To feed the 35 students originally enrolled with him, he had to dig an open pit for a fireplace over which their meals could be prepared.

Today the Mawuli School occupies 39 buildings on a campus of 105 acres, and when the new term opens will enroll 350. Government grants totalling almost a million dollars have made this possible. The faculty of 28, almost wholly African, includes some who have done graduate study in universities in lands outside their own. All faculty members must be members of some church, preferably the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. Students enrolling at what is equivalent to our 9th or 10th grade, in five years complete the rough equivalent of our senior high and college freshman curriculum. Two additional years offer the equivalent of our college sophomore and junior years. Graduates are eligible to sit for entrance examinations at the University College of Ghana, the College of Technology, and university colleges overseas as for example in England, France and even India.

Atakpame, French Togo

At Atakpame, French Togoland, high on top of a precipitous hill which an automobile labors to climb, overlooking the town and with a view of lengthening valleys and mountain piling on mountain, is located the seminary similar to that at Peki Blengo, where the Rev. and Mrs. Charles T. Hein work in co-operation with the native church and the Paris Missionary Society. The courses at Atakpame must be on a somewhat more elementary level than those at Peki Blengo, since at present students at Atakpame enroll after finishing "primary school", that is, the first six years of general schooling. The Ecole Biblique, Bible School, as the mission seminary is called, trains catechists and evangelists for work in what is properly known as Eglise Evangelique du Togo, the Evangelical Church of Togoland.

Because of the apparently somewhat less advanced stage of the work in French Togoland and the less ample resources which have been available in the past, the Heins with one African teacher assisting must really give their rather inadequately prepared students as much general education as possible as well as the courses more directly pertaining to the work of catechists and evangelists. Mrs. Hein, who taught secondary school in France for five years and worked three years in that country as assistant to a parish minister, last year, in addition to managing the mission home and caring for two small children, carried a teaching schedule of eleven hours a week in such subjects as French grammar and composition, geography, physiology and hygiene. Study of French is not a luxury in French Togo, since, with Ewe commonly spoken in the south, Twi in the north, and other dialects, French is really the "lingua franca" for this country. "Chuck" Hein, as his friends know him, had a weekly teaching schedule of 23 hours including Old and New Testaments, Christian education, dogmatics, general as well as church history, music (organ--foot-pedalled--and voice), and pastoral work along lines consonant with the country's culture and traditions. All this plus week-end "field trips" in evangelism and practice preaching with his students.

I doff my hat especially to the Heins. Dealing with what from an American viewpoint must be the frustrating prospect of students woefully inadequate in their pre-seminary schooling, in a situation where a relatively primitive culture and a political history shifting variously from German to French control have combined to make Christian evangelization, always difficult enough, even more difficult, the Heins in their homelife and in their missionary outlook seem to me to exemplify the devotion and the unflagging hope which have characterized Christian missionaries at their best.

Life and Work in the Native Churches

The Churches in Ghana and French Togoland with which we are at work now bear separate and distinctive names, respectively, the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and the Evangelical Church of Togoland. They were once one church, the Ewe (a-way) Presbyterian Church, Ewe being the dialect principally spoken, although the Twi dialect is spoken in the north, the Kabre in certain areas, and perhaps other dialects elsewhere.

Political boundaries and the resulting hindrances to fellowship and the continuance of a united life and work necessitated the division into two separate, self-governing church bodies. Their history, and their continuing sense of fundamental oneness in mission and concern, are reflected in the fact that, while the synod of each church meets biennially, once every five years the two synods meet in "big synod" which we would call a general synod.

The Evangelical Presbyterian Church, with which most of our missionaries are working, has a communicant membership of 19,690 and a total constituency of 68,000 which includes not only communicants but also the baptized and not yet confirmed, those otherwise disqualified from receiving communion, and the more or less casual adherents and sympathizers. There is a Sunday School enrollment of 8,250. There are 328 local congregations organized into 25 "pastoral districts", an arrangement which will be detailed later.

Counterpart in French Togoland, the Eglise Evangelique du Togo has a communicant membership of 11,500 and a total constituency of 35,000, organized into 18 pastoral districts with a total of 161 congregations.

The synod of the Church on the British side is divided into four presbyteries which meet frequently for administrative purposes, the synod of the Church on the French side being divided into three presbyteries. Each Church's affairs between the biennial synod meeting are administered by a synod committee in which the co-operating missions are represented. Each Church has a fulltime synod clerk, the Rev. Felix H. Buatsi, of the British side, being known to many of our people because of his having attended the General Synod of 1956 as a fraternal delegate.

The Pastoral District

The "pastoral district" or "preaching district" is an interesting characteristic of denominational organization in these Churches. There is one pastor for each pastoral district, with only one exception I heard of where a district was served by two pastors. The pastor is responsible for the administration of the sacraments in all the churches of his district, and in both Ghana and French Togo, is director of primary and middle schools of the Church in his district. Teachers' salaries are paid by the government, and perhaps other subsidies, but the pastor handles the remittances and is otherwise responsible for direction of the educational enterprise.

Number of congregations in a pastoral district averages 13 in the British area, nine on the French side. But they vary above and below the average, and I recall hearing of one pastor with 24 congregations in his district, and 24 primary schools and three middle schools to direct. Each congregation has a primary school (first six grades) associated with it, and several of them will have also a middle school (next four grades).

Obviously, between his school responsibilities and the quarterly (or oftener) administration of the sacraments, there is little further which the ordained pastor can render in the local congregation.

Catechist and Evangelist

Here is where come in two types of unordained, lay ministries in the local congregation,- the catechist and the evangelist. Every local congregation has a catechist, may have an evangelist, although as I understand it, an evangelist is usually assigned to work in a number of churches in the same area or among all the churches of a pastoral district. The evangelist is a fulltime employee, assigned and payable by the synod. The catechist is usually a school teacher in addition to which he works, as a lay volunteer, in his roll as catechist, the one element of compensation being that the congregation generally gives him a residence with perhaps a garden plot in addition. He may, also, be

working for experience, and to prove himself, and to satisfy one variation of the required procedure, looking toward eventual ordination.

Both catechist and evangelist have special training for their work, and this is where the "seminary" at Peki Blengo and the Bible School at Atakpame render their primary and major service. They both are training schools for catechists and evangelists, and only in very exceptional cases can a man qualify finally for ordination at either school, if indeed at Atakpame it can be done at all.

Basic for the office of either catechist or evangelist on the British side is completion of the regular primary and middle schools (first 10 years). --The Bible School at Atakpame, French Togo, is enrolling primary school (only first six years) "graduates".-- Then, resuming description of the British side pattern, to become an evangelist a young man must do a year or more of "pupil teaching" (roughly comparable to our "practice teaching"), after which,- if he is favorably recommended by his district pastor, and the head presbyter (elder) of his home congregation, and the headmaster of the school in which he has been doing pupil teaching,- he is eligible to take the examination and, if he passes it, to be admitted to the seminary at Peki Blengo. There he undergoes two years training in the usual seminary courses, plus intensive study of English.

A catechist's training differs. He must have finished primary and middle school, and done a year or more of practice teaching. Then he is eligible to go on to a teacher training college for two years, on successful completion of which he receives "Cert B" (Certificate B) teacher status. After a year or more of further practice teaching he is eligible to return to the teacher training college for two more years on successful completion of which he receives "Cert A" (Certificate A) teacher status. By this time, the typical individual having had government subsidy for his teacher training college study, he is under bond to return five years of teaching before launching out into another field.

Only with a Cert B or Cert A status is a man eligible to enroll at Peki Blengo to prepare to become a catechist. He does one year of special study since he has already had considerably more academic training than has a man preparing to be an evangelist. When he is assigned by the Church as catechist in a congregation he really becomes the local lay minister since the district pastor due to the system described earlier can be with each local congregation only at relatively long intervals.

The catechist leads the daily morning prayers of the congregation (5 a.m., seven days a week); conducts funerals except when that of a presbyter (elder), "church mother" (somewhat comparable to our women deacons), or other congregational leader indicates the presence of the district pastor. The catechist calls on the sick, enlists leaders for youth groups, choirs and "singing bands" (you haven't heard hymn-singing--and on a quick-stepped march, too--until you've heard one of these!), and secures leaders for church school classes and other groups. He sometimes serves also as organist.

Ordained Ministry

Sometimes service as a catechist may open the way for a man to do further preparation required toward becoming an ordained minister; and the process by which men do qualify eventually for ordination varies only slightly from the foregoing, except that with very rare exceptions he must top off his previous schooling and experience by three years study at a Theological College such as Trinity, in Kumasi.

I checked with both the Moderator and the Synod Clerk of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and they agreed that 26 years was the shortest possible period in which, from the time he first entered school, a man could complete the school requirements for ordination, and that, consequently, no man is likely to be ordained under 32 years of age. Most of them are older, and ordination at 45 or above is not unusual. The minimum regular process, totalling 26 years is detailed in the following way:- primary and middle school, 10 years; practice teaching, at least one year; teacher training college for Cert B status, 2 years; further teaching, at least 2 years; advanced teacher training college study for Cert A status, two years; five years teaching to satisfy bond for government support while a student; Peki seminary for catechist rating, one year; Theological College, 3 years. Occasionally a catechist of long service and above average aptitude and devotion is approved for ordination after an additional year at Peki, the Theological College requirement being suspended.

Church Support

Church support in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church has distinctive and interesting features. There is a basic annual assessment of one pound ($2.80) on each adult male communicant, ten shillings ($1.40) on each female, which is generally paid on installment as the member confers with the pastor preparatory to--and a strict pre-requisite for--receiving holy communion. Children still in school, even though confirmed, are not subject to this basic assessment, although there appears now to be increasingly strong sentiment in favor of including them, presumably for a more modest amount.

There is a schedule of fees for ritual and sacramental acts, a typical scale reported to me being:- baptism, two shillings (28 cents); confirmation, two shillings; wedding, five shillings (70 cents); no fee for funerals. All fees are accountable to the synod office and credited to the congregation's total support. Further support is received through annual Children's Day offerings, the Anniversary Offering of each pastoral district, and Thankofferings which members give voluntarily as gratitude for special blessings moves them. These funds also are remitted or reported to the synod office.

Synod-centered support provides not only for synod administrative expense and such corporate causes as aid to weaker pastoral districts which are really "home mission" pastoral districts, but pastors' salaries are paid through or reported to the synod treasury as part of the congregation's total synodical responsibility. Synod determines each pastor's salary scaled according to his standing in educational achievement at the time he entered the pastorate. Salaries generally range from 280 pounds to 420 ($784 to $1,176), highest possible salary being 500 pounds ($1,400). In addition, a residence, garden plot, and telephone are provided. Cost of living being relatively low (no winter fuel supply to pay for!) this salary range appears not too bad.

Offerings received at the regular weekly services are retained by the local congregation for maintenance of buildings and grounds, miscellaneous supplies, and other incidental expenses.

While the foregoing description is of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in British Togoland, it is my impression that the pattern holds generally for the Church on the French side, and presumably for other evangelical communions in both areas.

From their 3-fold type of trained congregational leadership, their

systematic method of church finance, and from their established means of direction and restraint by the whole fellowship on local congregations and individual members, it is apparent that these two Churches in the course of a century, since their beginnings under the Bremen missionaries, have come a long way in stabilizing and regularizing their life and work. One cannot escape the feeling that if now, on the foundations of Christian living and corporate church life they have already achieved, vigorous movements in evangelism, stewardship, and Christian education with a persistent emphasis on ethics as well as doctrine, can be stedfastly encouraged and aided, the Churches in the two Togolands will be able to continue to sing, and with ever new and deeper meaning, "The morning light is breaking".

Areas of Immaturity

There are limitations on the quality of Christian living which operate to test the patience and dampen the hopes of missionaries as well as to keep Togoland Christians from at present achieving heights of devotion and piety of which they are certainly capable. A "foreigner" hesitates to judge at this point since he knows that "there is none righteous, no, not one; for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." But a report on what appeared to be the facts may give a significant perspective on both mission strategy and the potentials of native Christian life.

Three areas of ethical and spiritual immaturity may be cited.

There is a widespread tendency to dishonesty in many forms. One hears frequent instances of petty thievery. There is a hospital where three of the four most trusted and promising African employees have been discharged for dishonesty, and the fourth is under suspicion. One, having access to supplies of medicaments, was discovered to have been stealing them in quantity and then privately selling them at monstrously exhorbitant prices on spurious promises to credulous African victims,- a double-edged kind of dishonesty victimizing the African purchaser as readily as the non-African employer. Standards of personal honesty appear to be even among professed Christians painfully low. Much of this may, perhaps, be attributed to a combination of factors: (1) low standards of living, and limited economic resources, and the resulting impulse to "get where the getting's good" and to "look out for number one"; (2) the instinctive self-preserving reaction of a people for centuries exploited by the so-called "Christian nations"; (3) the infiltration, through press and radio and the return of travelers, of news of luxuries and comforts and indulgences calculated to excite envy and desire and a materialistic concept of life's end and meaning.

Polygamy and other relations between the sexes abhorrent to what we understand as Christian morals plague the life of even the Christian community. A doctor tells of the 80-year old pastor who asked for some "virility" medicine explaining that without the result he thus hoped to achieve he was fearful that his much younger wife would desert him for some other man more to her satisfaction. There was the 40-year old catechist who had just become a teacher at one of the "seminaries" and was showing real promise for this work, and who after only three months had to be dismissed because he had seduced the 13-or 14-year old daughter of the local pastor. There was the news received while I was there of a trainee who would not return to school because he had got involved with a woman. There were stories of young men confiding to missionaries their difficulties in trying to adhere to Christian standards of sexual integrity, mocked by their male associates, tested by the advances of maidens even to the point of intruding the

same sleeping-place. And one reason for the wide disparity between the figure on "total constituency" and that on "communicant membership" is the number of those, it would seem in almost every town and village, who for polygamy were barred from the Lord's Table though often, in church attendance and otherwise, participating in the life of the Christian community with no apparent embarrassment, nor even sensitivity, at the disparity of their marital status and behaviour.

There are abundant evidences of the incomplete conversion of many from the superstitions and idolatries, the fundamental animism, of primitive paganism, and of the easy, ever-threatening possibility of reversion to fetishism and witchcraft. This assertion could be illustrated with specifics as were those of the two previous paragraphs, but the report is already becoming too long--not only for those who will read it but for the one who is writing it!

The extent to which such conditions obtain suggests something of the burden under which they labor and pray and hope, and adds so much more to the beauty and power of those African lives more fully transformed by the love of Christ.

Presbyterian Church of Ghana

There are other Churches representing African transplants of European, British or American communions which have done and/or are doing mission work in the area. Among those heard mentioned are Roman Catholic (especially and understandably in French Togo), Anglican, Methodist, Assemblies of God, even Jehovah's Witnesses.

Somewhat confusing to one uninformed as I was is the existence of a Presbyterian Church of Ghana which is separate from the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Trans-Volta Togoland (we working with the latter).

My last day in Accra before leaving for home I spent better part of an hour with the Rev. A. L. Kwansa, synod clerk of the Presbyterian Church of Ghana. This communion traces its beginnings to the early work, not of Bremen, but of Basel Society missionaries, a number of whom are yet today working with this Church. As a result of the same pattern of historic development following World War I, the Scottish Mission began also to work with this Church, and continues to do so.

The Presbyterian Church of Ghana for 1956 recorded a total constituency of 162,979 including 43,545 communicants, organized into 667 congregations divided into 75 pastoral districts. Almost three times as large as the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, the Presbyterian Church of Ghana appears to be more fully organized and staffed for various phases of denominational activity such as finance, Christian education, Youth Work and Women's Work, each of these four areas served by a fulltime executive. Women's Work seems to be especially well provided for by three fulltime women workers and a fourth soon to be added (these four I understood to be Africans) while among the African women work also three fulltime Basel Mission women and one from the Scottish Mission.

There appears to be no competitive aspect to the relationship between this Presbyterian Church of Ghana and our Evangelical Presbyterian Church. This joyworthy fact may be accounted for in part as due to both geography and dialect. The PCG operates almost wholly on the west side of the Volta in what were the Gold Coast and Ashanti areas and in that part of the northern territories, while

the EPC operates east of the Volta. Twi is the dialect predominantly spoken in the PCG area, Ewe among the EPC except that in the northern part of the latter's field the Twi dialect is also spoken. The PCG operates in the north among people speaking also Hausa, Kabre and some other dialects not unlike Twi. The PCG has a seminary at Abetifi comparable to the one at Peki Blengo, and at Abetifi last year 27 students were enrolled (24 expected in the new academic year) under two teachers. The pattern for ordination and with regard to catechists and evangelists seems to be quite like that described in the EPC. The PCG operates five teacher training colleges, three for women, two for men, chief such college being at Akropong; also two hospitals, one clinic.

Not only is there no apparent competition between PCG and EPC but there is considerable unity as between them. Both are members of the Christian Council of Ghana of which the Rev. Peter Dagadu has been executive, the Rev. Christian Baeta before him, both well known in ecumenical circles; although rumor has it that the Methodists are likely soon to make Peter Dagadu a bishop, and, for whatever reason, he is leaving the Christian Council office. EPC and PCG as well as the Methodists and perhaps even others use Trinity Theological College at Kumasi as the final training place for men seeking ordination. Moreover, conversations looking toward union have gone on intermittently for ten years or more; no major doctrinal differences impede but other factors probably have delayed union such as (1) difference of origins in the Bremen and Basel Missions respectively, (2) differences in prevailing dialect, Twi in the PCG and Ewe in the EPC, and (3) probably the simple and perhaps not conscious fear of the smaller EPC that it will be "absorbed" by the larger PCG. I was told that the PCG recently proposed resumption of conversations specifically seeking to quiet this fear, and that perhaps the first type of union which could be achieved would be in a general synod within which what are now the EPC and the PCG, respectively, would continue to function completely independent of each other except in those limited areas of fellowship and joint work each would delegate to the general synod. In any event, competition between the two is so slight as to appear to be non-existent, considerable fellowship and mutual respect seem to prevail, and a fundamental awareness of the desirability of greater oneness is present as is the will on the part of some to see it achieved.

Some Needs Expressed on the Field

Less than a half-hour after I had met the Rev. Eugene Kumodzi Galevo, moderator of the EPC, he voiced his initial urging that our Board give top priority to making adequate provision for the education of children of missionaries on the field, for whom the African primary and middle schools are not suitable for a number of reasons. During the past year and perhaps longer, Mrs. Grau did the best she could to conduct a school for these children as well as her own, the Graus housing several besides their own and serving as house-parents for them. As I gather the ideas now in the thinking of both missionaries and EPC leaders, they are these:

1. An additional missionary is needed whose primary responsibility would be to teach children of missionaries, and perhaps a few African children with a view to the values that would derive from such an inter-racial character thus given to the school.

2. There was a difference of opinion as to whether the school should be located at Ho or at Peki. Ho had the advantage of being more centrally located, but would require erection of a building to provide housing for children of

missionaries stationed elsewhere than at Ho, housing for the teacher, classroom facilities; and it is possible that some further personnel provision would be needed to assure competent house-parent care of the children. I believe the Board has now received from the staff on the field a recommendation adopted by majority vote proposing that this school be located at Peki Blengo, that a large ground-floor room in the mission residence can be easily cleared to provide adequate classroom space, that minor additions and changes to the mission residence would take care of housing the missionary children who would come from other stations, that the Graus could continue to serve as house-parents (Mrs.Grau devoting more of her extra-family time to this), the one major need being therefore an additional staff person as teacher and that this teacher who "is never likely to have more than eight or ten missionary children to teach" could devote some of her week-end and other time to more specifically "mission work" in the local African pastoral district or in periodic deputation work among women or young people throughout the EPC. I believe the majority recommendation from the field is a thoroughly sound one, and if followed will avoid erection of another institutional building which itself could easily lead the way to mushrooming developments and demands which we are not in position to underwrite and which, even if we were, might not in the long run abet the continuing maturation, self-development and self-reliance of the EPC itself.

Within the EPC area the other major concern centers in what should be done at Yendi, farther north. Opinions seem to vary as to whether a major emphasis at this point should be on model farming and agricultural extension work, on evangelism, or even on advanced education. Certainly all three are phases of the Christian strategy, but what I heard about the Moslem missionary movement coming down into the Yendi area from the north plus a concern about the present "vacuum" into which the Assemblies of God might be expected to move if we do not do so, leads me to think an evangelistic emphasis to begin with has a good deal to be said for it, with agricultural and educational emphases introduced as personnel and financial resources permit and as initial evangelistic efforts indicate.

In Atakpame when I asked Missionary Hein to indicate needs in order of their priority he replied as follows:- (1) a missionary couple to assist in the work at Atakpame; (2) an evangelistic couple to work throughout the pastoral districts promoting evangelistic effort on the part of the African pastors and their associates; (3) a missionary to serve as treasurer for the Eglise Evangelique du Togo as Missionary Schwenke serves for the EPC; and (4) a missionary couple to establish a new post at Sokode in the north to major in evangelistic work and counteract the Moslem and Assemblies of God possibilities mentioned in connection with Yendi in Trans-Volta Togoland.

Mr. Hein's priority I, assistance at Atakpame, deserves serious consideration not only to ease the burden on him and his wife and to provide missionary leadership when the Heins are on furlough, but for another reason. The Methodists are strong in Ghana and in Dahomey, the latter a country lying still east of French Togo; and there is some possibility that, especially if the seminary at Atakpame could be put on a sounder basis by providing additional missionary personnel, the Methodists would cooperate in centering their training at Atakpame; and thus both they and the Eglise Evangelique would be in a stronger position and closer relations between the two encouraged.

Mr. Hein believes that his priorities I and II might be adequately provided for in one carefully chosen missionary couple.

With regard to his priority III a Paris Mission appointee is now serving as Treasurer of the Eglise Evangelique but, as I understood, does so only temporarily and must be replaced.

The Paris Mission people would give first place to Mr. Hein's priority IV. I hope that it is the facts of the situation as I came to understand them, and not personal bias in favor of the Heins, which make me inclined strongly in support of Mr. Hein's scale of priorities.

Conclusion

Two general observations have remained with me as I came away after twelve days during which I visited every station where we are at work in Ghana and French Togoland.

1. We are there at all only by invitation of the native Churches in both areas, the Scottish and Paris Missions already working with them concurring in that invitation. The important aspect of the work would seem to be the extremely close and cordial relation between missionaries and the native Churches. In both countries missionaries have a place on the synod committee, which corresponds to our General Council. The urgent request from the French side for a missionary to serve as Treasurer of the Church as does Mr. Schwenke on the former British side suggests the confidence imposed in the missionaries by the native Church, and the latter's awareness of its own immaturity and need for guidance. On the other hand, our missionaries in this field take on more of the character of "fraternal workers" which seems clearly to be their desirable role, as native Churches born of missionary endeavor attain self-conscious corporate life and if those native Churches are eventually to be weaned of dependence on the older Churches.

2. We have a competent, consecrated staff of missionaries in Ghana and French Togoland. If now I mention once again Mr. Schwenke it is not at all to indicate any preference for him over the rest but simply to share what his activity and relation to the mission and to the native Church brought so vividly to my mind, namely, the unique contributions which devout lay men and women can make as members of our mission staffs when they bring that training, skill and aptitude which is not usually found in those preparing for the ordained ministry or for those other forms of service traditionally referred to as more specifically "religious work". Moreover, the presence of such lay men and women on our mission staffs may go a long way toward encouraging among native Christians more of an awareness of lay vocation and apostolate.

Incidental to the four weeks in Africa, but I hope extending some of the insights which I there received to others, I wrote a series of 17 articles for the Lancaster, Pennsylvania, Intelligencer Journal which is read by a considerable contingent of our people in Lancaster, Lebanon, Dauphin and York Counties; one major article for Advance; and for The Messenger two major articles and four "President's Viewpoint" columns with the probability that one or more of the latter will yet be written. The practice of first writing the series of newspaper articles began, quite casually and almost by accident, when I first went overseas in 1955 for a 10-week stay in Europe. In every overseas trip since then I have followed the practice deliberately because, not only did it offer a channel of publicity in an area where more than 50 of our congregations constitute

one of the largest concentrations of our membership, but doing the articles provided the occasion wherein, almost daily, in quick succession, and in very full detail, I could reduce to black-and-white the data and impressions from carbon copies on which I could then draw in writing for the Church papers and the reports of which this is the third.

Speaking engagements, none of which were anticipated before I left, included:- greetings to a Portuguese Presbyterian congregation and the sermon at St. Andrew's Scottish Church the Sunday I spent in Lisbon; an address to the Durban International Club; and in Ghana and French Togoland, sermons in the churches at Avetile, Kpedze, Worawora, Adidome (Watch-night Service New Year's Eve), Ho, and a brief homily to the congregation at Atakpame; and, the synod of the Eglise Evangelique du Togo being in its biennial session near Atakpame, I spent an afternoon and evening there, bringing extended greetings in the afternoon including a sketch of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, and in the evening a major address on (by request) the ecumenical movement in general and our specific part in it in the unions of 1934 and 1957.

All this will indicate that I had no problem as to what to do with my spare time. Yet, rugged as was the schedule throughout, it was more than compensated for by the privilege of sharing a bit of the deep devotion of our missionaries and by the thrilling experience of seeing native Churches in both Ghana and French Togoland showing convincing signs of their coming of age. The concept of "one holy catholic Church" has new meaning for me, and I am grateful to God for the opportunity which proved thus to be a true "channel of grace".

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE CHURCH

February 11-13, 1958

To the Members of the General Council:

Your Secretary has attempted to keep the report of his activities within as brief a compass as possible without omitting any matters which need to be presented to this body. Sometimes it seems to your Secretary that he is suffering from schizophrenia since he finds himself dealing with a variety of responsibilities all of which are placed within his province. There are times when he finds it difficult to remember which hat he is wearing. In order that there might be no confusion in following this report, your Secretary has attempted to delineate between these several responsibilities for the sake of clarity.

GENERAL SYNODS

After discussion in the Administrative Committee of the General Council and in the Administrative Committee of the Executive Council concerning the General Synods of the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the United Church of Christ, both of which will fall in 1959, the Secretary of the Church was requested to discuss this matter with Dr. Robert Stanger, president of Elmhurst College, and was asked in addition to explore the possibility of holding the General Synod of the United Church of Christ in the Chicago area. Your Secretary has discussed this matter with President Stanger and can report as follows:

> The facilities of Elmhurst College are offered to the General Synod of the Evangelical and Reformed Church for its meeting in 1959. Such facilities are altogether adequate for our General Synod. Elmhurst College would perfer that the General Synod met near the end of June or in the first week in July, unless plans are made for a meeting to be held in the month of August which, also, would be agreeable to Elmhurst College.

Your Secretary had been requested to investigate the possibility of holding the General Synod of the United Church of Christ (1959) on the campus of Northwestern University so that both General Synods might be held within a span of eight days and at locations close to one another. This seems to be a feasible approach. In the discussion of this matter in the Administrative Committee the thought was expressed that, if Northwestern University becomes a real possibility, the sessions should be held in a place other than McGaw Hall. Dr. Stanger informed me that Lutkin Hall would be adequate as far as facilities are concerned and that it is located on the campus. Dr. Stanger also stated that the First Methodist Church in Evanston of which Dr. Harold Basley is pastor, would have adequate facilities for the General Synod of the United Church of Christ.

The Administrative Committee of the Executive Council has requested your Secretary to make such plans as are necessary for the General Synod of the United Church of Christ in cooperation with Rev. Carl Ronander who has assumed certain administrative responsibilities in the office of Dr. Hoskins.

YEAR BOOK

It is possible to report that progress is quite satisfactory as we look forward to the publication of the 1958 Year Book. Response to the earlier deadline (January 15) for statistical reports has been most satisfactory. The major portion of these reports should be in the Secretary's office by the end of January. All other aspects involved in the publication of the Year Book are well nigh complete. Mention should be made here of the work done in preparation for the publication of the Year Book by Miss Ada Brosz. In conjunction with your Secretary she has been working constantly on the statistics and the other aspects of the Year Book in order that its content might be ready for publication.

It can be noted here, also, that in response to a communication addressed to all Congregational Christian pastors, more than one thousand orders for the Evangelical and Reformed Year Book were received from Congregational Christian pastors. Evangelical and Reformed pastors have ordered about the same number of Congregational Christian Year Books.

PROPOSED CHANGES IN SYNODICAL BOUNDARIES

From time to time there are changes in Synodical boundaries resulting from inter-synodical transfers of congregations. In order that there might be a systematic procedure for reporting such changes your Secretary has prepared a form for reporting such transfers. A copy of this form is attached to this report. The approval of this form by General Council is requested.

CHURCH RECORDS

So that records and documents which have been stored in the Office of the Secretary might be put into proper order, we have been proceeding to compile minutes of Synods, General Synods, etc., in order that these valuable records might be bound for permanent use. During recent months Dr. Ralph Hartman, one of our retired pastors, has been at work in the Secretary's office and has thus far been able to put into condition for binding a great many of such documents as have been on our shelves. Also it has been possible to make available to the depositories of our Historical Society and to libraries duplicate copies of such minutes and other records. You will recognize that the compilation of these documents is a tedious task requiring careful attention to such documents in order that we might preserve everything which has permanent value. It is our hope that we shall be able to complete the compilation and binding of these documents within the next several months.

REORGANIZATION OF SECRETARY'S OFFICE

Physically speaking it is possible to report that a great deal of progress has been made in order to make it possible for the Secretary to carry his responsibility both as Secretary and as Administrative Assistant to the President of the Church. Some new equipment has been added to the office and it is your Secretary's intention to secure competent advice in order to establish sound procedures for the efficient operation of this office. It is good to be able to report that it has been possible to proceed in this direction in order that the highest degree of efficiency might be attained.

NATIONAL COUNCIL STUDY

Sometime ago, at the request of Dr. F. Ernest Johnson of the National Council of Churches, your Secretary distributed questionnaires to all Boards and Agencies of the Church. These questionnaires were concerned with questions covering salaries and personnel relations as they exist in the denominations which are part of the National Council of Churches. Some of the questions raised in the questionnaire were such as to indicate to me that they were important enough to demand some thought on our part. It is my hope that the United Church of Christ will want to establish some procedure whereby a sound study might be made of work responsibilities and salaries of all personnel in the General offices of the United Church of Christ. Another aspect of the questionnaire called for a study of practices in the several denominations concerning sick leave and sabbatical periods. Here, too, are matters which would seem to require our consideration.

RENTAL ALLOWANCE PROCEDURE

In the light of rulings adopted by the Bureau of Internal Revenue concerning rental allowances for ordained employees of the Church, it may be that the General Council will want to re-consider the practice which is presently being followed in the Evangelical and Reformed Church. However, it would seem to your Secretary that such re-consideration as might be given to this matter should be made in cooperation with our Congregational Christian fellowship. Perhaps this is a matter which should be referred to the Committee on Finance and Budget.

It should be noted here, also, that the Commission on Evangelism at its meeting held January 14-15, 1958, took action overturing the General Council as follows:

> "The Commission recommends to General Council that there be a re-study of rental allowances."

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL

Your Secretary has given some thought to the procedure which we have been following for meetings of the General Council and would like to make the following proposal:

> That annual meetings of the General Council should not include plans for preaching engagements or for Wednesday evening dinner meetings, but that this procedure should be followed only at the semi-annual meetings of the General Council.
>
> Your Secretary makes such a proposal in light of the fact that our experience would seem to indicate to us that the work load for our annual meetings would seem to make it necessary for General Council to give full attention to its labors rather than to take any blocks of time for such gatherings as have been held in the past in conjunction with these meetings.

ADVISORY MEMBER

At the request of the chairman of the Committee appointed to Propose a Policy for Allocating Benevolent Funds to our Educational Institutions, your Secretary has acted as an advisory member of this Committee and has gathered together materials for the Committee's consideration. This Committee has held one meeting thus far and is planning for a second meeting in the near future.

STATISTICS

Attached to this report is a statistical resume covering the year 1956. It is impossible to present at this time such a resume for 1957 since, at this writing, all statistical reports are not in your Secretary's hands.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

The responsibilities which have been fulfilled by the Secretary of the Church in his capacity as Administrative Assistant to the President can be reported as follows:

The schedule of the Spring Meetings of the Synods for 1958 has been completed and all denominational representatives have been assigned. A copy of this schedule is attached to this report.

The schedule for the Fall Meetings of the Synods is in process with about half of the dates and places now established.

As Director of Correlation, the Secretary has participated in the meetings of the following Boards and Agencies of the Church:

Board of National Missions
Board of International Missions
Board of Christian Education
Board of Business Management
Board of Christian Education (Executive Committee)
Commission on Higher Education
Commission on Evangelism
Commission on Church and Ministry
Council for Christian Social Action

Beyond meeting with the above named Boards and Agencies, the Secretary has participated in a joint meeting of the Staff of the Board of National Missions and the Staff of the Division of Church Extension (CC), a joint meeting (E&R-CC) to consider the place of the laity in the United Church of Christ, the Missions Council (CC), and the Women's Guild Quadrennial. In this latter instance the Secretary participated in the Quadrennial Program as a leader in the Seminars on the Denomination.

JOINT JOURNAL

Sometime today the Committee on Publication will be reporting to this General Council concerning the Joint Journal for the United Church of Christ. While your Secretary would not presume to indicate what action the General Council might take in regard to the Joint Journal, his study of the minutes and other documents growing out of the meetings of the Joint Journal Committee and the meetings of the Board of Business Management would seem to indicate that more clarification is necessary at a number of points before a final decision is made concerning the publication of the Joint Journal. To your Secretary it seems quite clear that statements have been made and figures

have been presented which require further consideration by the Joint Committee before any final decision is made. If, after hearing the report of the Committee on Publications and such other statements as may be made to this General Council concerning the Joint Journal, such further consideration seems to be desirable to the General Council it would appear that this whole matter should be re-committed to the Joint Journal Committee with such suggestions as the General Council might wish to make to this Committee.

JOB ANALYSIS

Together with Dr. Roy Limbert and Mrs. Lillian Lang your Secretary prepared a Job Analysis for fund raising personnel in the Department of United Promotion. This Job Analysis will be presented to the Committee on Correlation and Promotion and thereafter to the General Council, a copy of the same is attached to this report.

The Secretary prepared agenda for the Committee on Correlation and Promotion and the Cabinet on Correlation and made all necessary arrangements for this meeting of the General Council in the Hotel Cleveland. In consultation with Dr. Franklin I. Sheeder, the Secretary has drawn up a proposed program for the Third Annual All-Staff Conference which will be held at the Voluntary Service Training Center near Pottstown, Pa., March 21-23. It is planned to have the Administrative Committee of the Executive Council of the United Church meet at the Voluntary Service Training Center immediately prior to the beginning of the All Staff Conference sessions in order that the members of the Administrative Committee might share in this conference insofar as they are able to do so.

As a member of the Administrative Committee of the Office of Communication your Secretary serves as vice chairman. At the most recent meeting of this Committee held on December 16, 1957, your Secretary prepared proposals for the interim operation of the Office of Communication which are now under consideration.

At the September 1957 meeting of the General Council your Secretary made a report concerning insurance coverage for members of the General Council and staff persons of our Boards and Agencies. After further consideration of this matter it now seems to your Secretary that responsibility for this insurance coverage can well remain in the office of the Secretary. Questions which may arise from time to time or changes which may be required in this coverage can be handled quite simply and rapidly by the Secretary since the headquarters of the insurance companies involved are located in Philadelphia.

In addition to his responsibilities as Secretary of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, your Secretary serves as a member of the Executive Council of the United Church of Christ, a member of its Administrative Committee and as secretary of the Executive Council and its Administrative Committee. His duties have been multiplied somewhat.

He is responsible for arrangements for meetings of these bodies and for the publication and distribution of minutes of meetings. In this latter respect he works closely with Mrs. Nellie Baker in the office of the United Church of Christ, 257 Fourth Avenue, New York.

OTHER MATTERS

In the recent past the Secretary of the Church has helped to plan for a dinner honoring Dr. Charles E. Schaeffer on the occasion of his 90th birthday, and a dinner honoring Dr. Ralph E. Weiler upon his retirement as Eastern Field Secretary of the Board of International Missions. In addition your Secretary has accepted engagements to address CC conferences and other groups and has filled a schedule of speaking and preaching engagements in both constituencies of the United Church of Christ. Indication of these engagements is given in the listing which is attached to this report.

Once again I take occasion to commend the efficient work of all members of the staff in the Office of the Secretary. Without their efficient labors your Secretary would be utterly lost. To the members of the General Council and to the Executives, Staff members and members of the Boards and Agencies I express my very deep gratitude for the excellent relationships which continue to exist between us.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheldon E. Mackey
Secretary

STATISTICAL RESUME

A comparison of the statistics of our Church for the years 1955 and 1956, as compiled in the office of the Secretary, is as follows:

	1955	1956
Pastors	1,885	1,879
Ministers without charge	717	759
Charges	2,140	2,162
Congregations	2,736	2,738
Total Accessions	53,315	56,841
Total losses	42,960	46,308
Net gain in membership	10,355	10,533
Total Communicant Membership	784,270	794,047
Members Communing at least once during the year	665,918	673,989
Total Church School Enrollment	528,490	532,388
Average Church School Attendance	323,572	329,291
Students for the Ministry	718	703

SCHEDULE OF SPRING SYNOD MEETINGS FOR 1958

Synod	Dates	Place	Denominational Representative
California	April 29-May 1	Zion Church, Lodi, California	John R. C. Haas
Central Pennsylvania	April 29-30	St. John's E&R-UCC, Bedford, Pa.	Joseph C. Wetzel
Dakota	May 21-23	Salem Congregation, Winnipeg, Man.	
		Rev. C. D. Maurer	Emil N. Krafft
East Pennsylvania	May 6-7	Zion Church, Bethlehem, Pa., Rev. R. L. Koehler	James E. Wagner
Kansas City	May 13-15	Central Church, Jefferson City, Mo.	Emil N. Krafft
Lancaster	April 22-23	Christ Church, Elizabethtown, Pa.	
		Rev. Philip E. Saylor	James E. Wagner
Lehigh	June 3-4	Cedar Crest College, Allentown, Pa.	Albert G. Gonser
Magyar	May 6-8	Hungarian Church, Dayton, Ohio	Perry L. Smith
Mercersburg	May 13-14	Canadochly Church, Hellam, Pa.	Sheldon E. Mackey
Michigan-Indiana	May 6-8	St. Paul's Church, Taylor Center, Mich.	Ben M. Herbster
Midwest	May 13-14	Salem Church, Alleman, Iowa	Erwin R. Koch
Missouri Valley	April 22-24	St. John's E&R Church, St. Charles, Mo.	Ben M. Herbster
New York	May 6-8	Evangelical Protestant Church, Albany, N. Y.	Erwin R. Koch
Northeast Ohio	May 20-21	Emmanuel Church, Akron, Ohio	Mrs. Milton C. Lang
Northern	April 18-20	Peace Church, New Salem, North Dakota	John W. Flucke
North Illinois	June 10-12	Elmhurst College, Elmhurst, Illinois	Albert G. Gonser
Northwest Ohio	May 22-23	St. Paul Church, St. Mary's, Ohio	Willard A. Kratz
North Wisconsin	May 13-14	Peace Church, Shawano, Wis., Rev. W. Mueller	James E. Wagner
Pacific Northwest	May 6-8	Peace Church, Walla Walla, Washington	John R. C. Haas
Philadelphia	June 10-11	Ursinus College, Collegeville, Pa.	Mrs. E. Roy Corman
Pittsburgh	May 21-22	Amity Church, Myersdale, Pa.	James E. Wagner
Potomac	June 11-13	Hood College, Frederick, Maryland	John W. Mueller
Reading	April 22-23	Grace (Alsace) Church, Reading, Pa.	Donald C. Dearborn
Rocky Mountain	May 13-15	St. Paul's Church, Mitchell, Nebraska	
		Rev. A. W. Fruechte	John R. C. Haas
Southeast Ohio	April 24-25	Jerusalem Church, New Philadelphia, Ohio	Albert G. Gonser
Southern	April 29-May 1	Zion Church, Lenoir, North Carolina	Ben M. Herbster
South Illinois	May 6-8	Eden Church, Edwardsville, Illinois	Roy W. Limbert
South Indiana	May 20-22	Immanuel Church, Lafayette, Indiana	V. Milton Rasche
Southwest Ohio	May 19-21	St. Luke Church, Dayton, Ohio	
		Rev. M. C. Harrison	Joseph C. Wetzel
South Wisconsin	May 13-14	St. John's E&R Church, Monroe, Wisconsin	John L. Schmidt
Susquehanna	April 29-30	Trinity United Church of Christ, Bloomsburg, Pa.	Sheldon E. Mackey
Texas	April 22-24	St. John's E&R Church, Rosenberg, Texas	Erwin R. Koch
West New York	May 20-22	Salem E&R Church, Rochester, New York	John W. Flucke

Rev. Paul M. Schroeder

DATA CONCERNING MINISTERS AND CONGREGATIONS OF THE CHURCH

MINISTERS

Received into Membership

Rev. James R. Coovert, Aurora, Indiana, by Southwest Ohio Synod, on October 15, 1957, from the Congregational Christian Churches.

Rev. Howard S. Fuller, Buffalo, New York, by West New York Synod, on August 22, 1957, from the Congregational Christian Churches.

Rev. Shirley E. Greene, St. Louis, Missouri, by Rocky Mountain Synod, on November 29, 1957, from the Congregational Christian Churches.

Rev. Don Hochstettler, Fremont, Ohio, by Northwest Ohio Synod, on July 14, 1957, from the Evangelical United Brethren.

Rev. Harry B. Lake, Jr., North Hampton, Ohio, by Southwest Ohio Synod, on October 15, 1957, from the Congregational Christian Churches.

Rev. M. Earle McCullough, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, by Lancaster Synod, on October 31, 1957, from the Congregational Christian Churches.

Rev. Vernon W. Rice, Council Bluffs, Iowa, by Midwest Synod, on October 14, 1957, from the Congregational Christian Churches.

Rev. Armin H. Roemer, Sheboygan, Wisconsin, by South Wisconsin Synod, on January 10, 1958, from the Congregational Christian Churches.

Dismissed

Rev. Wesley W. Martin, Atlanta, Georgia, by Southern Synod, on September 26, 1957, to the Georgia-South Carolina Conference of the Congregational Christian Churches.

Erased from the Roll

Rev. Robert E. Bizer, Frankfort, Illinois, by North Illinois Synod, on June 10, 1957.

CONGREGATIONS

Received into Membership

St. Thomas Church, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, by Southern Synod, on November 3, 1957.

Dissolved

Trinity Church, Bechtelsville, Pennsylvania, a constituent of the Swamp-Amity Charge, by Reading Synod, on January 5, 1958.

CHANGES IN SYNOD ROSTERS

Lehigh Synod

St. Paul's (Blue) Church, Coopersburg, Pennsylvania, and St. Mark's Church, Allentown, Pennsylvania, now constitute the St. Mark's-Blue Charge.

Mercersburg Synod

The Dover Synod has been re-aligned. Shiloh Church, R. 1, York, Pa., has become an independent Charge, and Dover Church, Dover, Pa., and Salem Church, R. 2, Dover, Pa., now constitute the Dover-Salem Charge.

The Kreutz Creek Charge also has been re-aligned. Canadochly Church, R. D. 2, Hellam, Pa., and Trinity Church, Hellam, Pa., now constitute the Kreutz Creek Charge, with Locust Grove Church, York, Pa., becoming a one-point Charge.

North Illinois Synod

First English Church, Freeport, Illinois, has changed its name to Bethany Church.

Pittsburgh Synod

The Youngwood-Harrolds Charge has been dissolved; First Church, Youngwood, Pa., and St. John's Church, Harrolds, Pa., becoming independent Charges.

South Wisconsin Synod

Grace "R" Church and Trinity Church of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, have been merged and now form Faith Church.

REQUEST FOR TRANSFER

New Jerusalem Church, R. 1, Fleetwood, Pennsylvania, a constituent of the Fleetwood-Pricetown Charge, Reading Synod, requested to be transferred to Lehigh Synod, and, along with St. John's (Hill) Church, Boyertown, R. 1, Pennsylvania, a constituent of the Ziegel Charge, Lehigh Synod, be constituted a new charge of Lehigh Synod. Both Synods voted favorably on this request.

JOB ANALYSIS

Staff Member for Fund-Raising Department of United Promotion

1. He shall carry responsibility for capital fund raising in local congregations. This would include fund raising for debt reduction.

2. The pattern for field assignments and office responsibilities to be established as in the Congregational Christian Office. For example, he would spend approximately two weeks on the field to one week in the office as the ordinary procedure.

3. He would undergo a training period with Mr. Curtis R. Schumacher (CC) both in field and in office routine.

4. Such requests as he would receive for service will be presented to the annual meeting of the General Council through the Committee on Correlation and Promotion. The list would receive approval of the Committee on Correlation and Promotion. The Office of Fund Raising would make known to the Church at large that the deadline for receiving all requests for a year would be January 15. Equal opportunities for service should be given to all Synods requesting such services.

5. It is proposed that the fee scale for services be the same as that followed in the Congregational Christian Office responsible for fund raising.

6. As a staff member of the Department of United Promotion, he would be responsible to the Director of United Promotion of the Department of United Promotion and would present reports to the Committee on Correlation and Promotion of the General Council concerning the success of his labors.

7. He should accept invitations, in local congregations in which he is called to serve, to address the congregation or responsible groups within the congregation.

8. Since it would seem wise to anticipate the time when persons in both the Evangelical and Reformed Church and in the Congregational Christian Churches presently engaged in fund raising would be united in one office charged with this particular responsibility, it would seem wise to establish the pattern of closest possible cooperation between the two offices during the interim period until final establishment of such an office is a reality.

ENGAGEMENTS

Secretary

Sept. 27 Interim Committee - Executive Council, New York

Oct. 10-11 Executive Council - United Church of Christ, Cleveland

Nov. 20 Administrative Committee of General Council, St. Louis

Dec. 1-6 General Assembly - National Council of Churches, St. Louis

Jan. 13 Administrative Committee of the Executive Council (UCC), Cleveland
21 Committee on Constitutional Matters, Chicago

Administrative Assistant

Oct. 3 Joint Meeting (E&R-CC) Laity in United Church, New York
18 Joint Meeting (E&R-CC) Staff of Board of National Missions and CC Staff, Division of Church Extension, Philadelphia
30-31 Joint (E&R-CC) Commission on Church and Ministry, New York

Nov. 12 Committee on Policy for Allocating Benevolent Funds to Educational Institutions, Washington, D. C.
14-15 Board of International Missions, Cleveland
18-19 Board of National Missions, St. Louis

Dec. 16 Administrative Committee of the Office of Communication, N. Y.
27 Executive Committee, Board of Christian Education, Philadelphia

Jan. 14 Commission on Evangelism, Cleveland
15 Board of Business Management, Cleveland
28-29 Commission on Higher Education, Frederick, Maryland
30-31 Council for Christian Social Action, Buck Hill Falls, Pa.

OTHER ENGAGEMENTS

Sept.	22	Sermon - Dedication of New Olivet Church, Norristown, Pa.
	24	Address on Union, Women's Guild, Second Church, Reading, Pa.
	29	Sermon - Dedication of New Church, Glenside, Pa.
Oct.	9	Address on Union, Women's Guild, St. James Church, Havertown, Pa.
	13	Morning and Evening Sermons - 75th Anniversary, St. John's Church, Catawissa, Pa.
	16	Participated in Panel Discussion on the Union, Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, Pa.
	20	Morning, Sermon - Harvard Congregational Christian Church, Brookline, Massachusetts Afternoon, Address - Worcester Central Association of the Congregational Christian Churches, West Boyleston, Mass. Evening, Sermon - Middlesex-Mendon Association, Framingham, Mass.
	23	Address - Eastern Regional Meeting of the Congregational Christian Churches, Holyoke, Mass.
	27	Sermon - Reformation Day Service (Community), Bethlehem, Pa.
	29	Address - E&R-CC Fellowship Dinner, Riverside Church, New York
Nov.	3	Sermon - Peoples' Congregational Christian Church, Dover, Del.
	10	Founders' Day Address, Ursinus College, Collegeville, Pa.
	17	Sermon - Faith Congregational Christian Church, Springfield, Mass.
	24	Sermon - St. Paul's Church, Manheim, Pa.
Dec.	1	Sermon - Centenary Methodist Church, St. Louis, Mo.
	8	Sermon - St. Stephens Church, Reading, Pa.
	22	Sermon - Fortieth Anniversary, Tabor Church, Philadelphia, Pa.
Jan.	5	Sermon and Communion Service, Bethlehem Church, Glassboro, N. J.
	6-9	Week of Prayer Services, Chambersburg, Pa. (Four sermons, three Radio addresses)
	19	Sermon - Bethlehem Church, Glassboro, N. J.
	26	Sermon - Dedication of Linfield Church, Linfield, Pa.
Feb.	3	Address on Union, Moravian Ministerial Association, Bethlehem, Pa.

January 31, 1958

REPORT OF F. A. KECK, Treasurer

To the General Council

I can report for the sixteenth consecutive year the Apportionment income has shown a considerable increase and registered the largest total gain achieved in any one year. Apportionment receipts for 1957 were $4,447,170.42 in comparison with $3,557,600.72 for the year 1956, an increase of $889,569.70, or twenty-five per cent. Receipts in the month of January 1958 were $547,746.03, which establishes it as the largest single month in the history of our Church. This is an outstanding record for the first year of the Triennium.

1957 Apportionment receipts	$4,447,170.42
1957 Monthly Guaranteed Advance	4,348,069.00
	99,101.42
Less collection fees on checks	66.94
Apportionment Surplus	$ 99,034.48

WORLD SERVICE

1956 Receipts	$749,045.84
1957 Receipts	691,052.02
Decrease	57,993.82

CONTINGENT FUND.

Balance on hand February 1, 1957		$ 17,329.40
1957 Monthly Guaranteed Advance		15,000.00
		$ 32,329.40
Disbursements		
Broadcasting and Film Commission		7,500.00
Balance, January 31, 1958		$ 24,829.40

EQUALIZATION OF TRAVEL EXPENSE OF DELEGATES TO SPRING SYNOD CONFERENCES.

Balance on hand February 1, 1957		$ 2,057.47
Monthly Guaranteed Advance		3,000.00
Refund Texas Synod		29.25
		$ 5,086.72
Disbursements		
California Synod	$229.52	
Rocky Mountain Synod	258.50	
Dakota Synod	378.76	
Texas Synod	2,581.58	
Pacific Northwest Synod	514.81	
Magyar Synod	1,175.00	
		$ 5,138.17
Deficit January 31, 1958		$ 51.45

CHURCH UNION FUND.

Disbursements

Travel	$ 5,973.13
Printing	2,975.51
Mailing	874.08
W. F. Frazier, Treas., Uniting General Synod	10,000.00
Homeland Presentation at Uniting General Synod	3,250.00
Overseas Presentation at Uniting General Synod	1,500.00
Production of Movie of Uniting General Synod	2,500.00
Office of Communication	22,296.00
W. F. Frazier, Treas., United Church of Christ	5,000.00
F. A. Keck, Treas., United Church of Christ	5,000.00
	$ 59,368.72
Deficit February 1, 1957	143.66
	$ 59,512.38

Receipts.

Monthly Guaranteed Advance	$ 40,000.00	
Designations	50.00	
Refunds account of Historical Sketches	20.00	40,070.00
Deficit January 31, 1958		$19,442.38

STUDENT LOAN FUND

Balance on hand February 1, 1957		$ 16,457.47
Monthly Guaranteed Advance		75,000.00
Designations		141.28
Refunds		3,100.00
Interest Collected		149.22
From Board of Education, Ohio Synod		2,020.72
		96,868.69

Disbursements

Student Loans	$ 68,045.00	
Commission on Church and Ministry		
Printing	283.27	
Travel	120.17	68,448.44
Balance January 31, 1958		28,420.25
(Student loand pending January 31, 1958)		(4,150.00)

ECUMENICAL TRAVEL FUND

1955				
Transfer from Contingent Items				$ 5,000.00
Transfer from Apportionment Surplus for expense of representatives from missions in India, Japan and Africa to 1956 General Synod				5,000.00
				$10,000.00
Disbursements				
Dr. Wagner - trip to Europe	Advance	$2,500.00		
	Refunds	443.00		2,057.00
Balance January 31, 1956				$ 7,943.00
1956				
Balance February 1, 1956				7,943.00
Transfer from Contingent Items				5,000.00
				$12,943.00
Disbursements				
Dr. Stanger - Allowance for attending meetings in Hungary and Czecho-Slovakia			$ 600.00	
Travel expense of three missionaries to General Synod -				
Rev. Obed Wany		1,987.76		
Dr. Michio Kozaki		1,409.40		
Rev. Felix Buatsi		1,222.96	4,620.12	
Dr. Wagner - trip to China & Japan-Advance		3,500.00		
Refunds		1,020.00	2,480.00	
Transfer from National Council of Churches, Travel Expense 30 items		2,434.64		
Less credit		1,000.00	1,434.64	9,134.76
Balance January 31, 1957				$ 3,808.24
1957				
Balance February 1, 1957				3,808.24
Guaranteed Monthly Advance for 1957				8,000.00
				$11,808.24
Disbursements				
Dr. Wagner - trip to Honduras	Advance	2,000.00		
	Refunds	1,055.00	945.00	
Dr. Wagner - meetings of Central Committee of World Council and Executive Committee of World Alliance			140.07	
Dr. Wagner - trip to Africa	Advance	2,700.00		
	Refunds	802.47	1,897.53	
Transfer from National Council of Churches, Travel expense 33 items			3,918.35	6,900.95
Balance January 31, 1958				$ 4,907.29

ADMINISTRATION FUND

of the

EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED CHURCH

February 1, 1957 to January 31, 1958.

Receipts.

Balance in Bank, February 1, 1957	$ 43,086.98	
Guaranteed Monthly Advance	125,000.00	
Refund	285.73	
		$168,372.71

Disbursements.

Salaries - Dr. J. E. Wagner $15,000.00 Dr. S. E. Mackey $10,000.00, Dr. F. A. Keck $9,000.00, C. H. Lockyear $5,000.00	39,000.00
Rent - Dr. J. E. Wagner $1,200.00, Dr. S. E. Mackey $1,200.00, Dr. F. A. Keck $1,200.00 C. H. Lockyear $600.00	4,200.00
Social Security Dr. F. A. Keck $92.25, C. H. Lockyear $18.75	111.00
Pension Premium Dr. J. E. Wagner $1,173.33 Dr. S. E. Mackey $781.33	1,954.66
Pension - Dr. L. W. Goebel	2,400.00
Pension - Dr. J. Rauch Stein	900.00
Office Account - Dr. J. E. Wagner, President ..	11,730.54
Office Account - Dr. S. E. Mackey, Secretary ..	24,508.83
Office Account - Dr. F. A. Keck, Treasurer	24,202.62
Dr. John R. C. Haas, Vice President, Allowance.	1,200.00
Travel Expense	
Administrative Committee	291.51
General Council	6,971.02
Committee on Program for Fall Meeting of Synods	280.14
General Council Representatives - Synod Meeting	2,957.03
World Council of Churches	650.00
Finance and Budget Committee	211.64
Constitution matters	572.52
Bureau of Audio Visual Aids	290.01
Committee meetings of Synods	221.83
Committee to study Relationship of our Hospitals to the Church	245.06
Committee to study Facilities and Programs of the Seminaries	836.12
Joint Planning and Administrative Committee.	408.43
Conference on Christian Unity	872.74
Committee to study future of Deaconess Order	396.32
Liturgies	708.91
Conference on Program for Conference of Synod Presidents	321.26

Administration Fund of the
Evangelical and Reformed Church, cont.

Committee on Educational Institutions	$ 254.32	
Publication Committee	315.06	
Commission - Church needs for the Mentally Ill and Retarded	288.98	
Miscellaneous Travel	394.21	
Travel - Theological Committee	746.51	
6500 Blue Books	3,240.25	
5700 General Synod Minutes	5,301.96	
5025 copies of Constitution and By-laws	1,001.62	
Envelopes and Postage Mailing - Constitution and By-laws.....	201.14	
Subscription of the Messenger for members of Executive Council of C.C.C.	44.00	
92 copies "Day is Dawning"	193.20	
Auditing Treasurer's account for year 1956	1,250.00	
Moving expense Charles H. Lockyear ..... Evansville, Ind. to Webster Groves, Mo.	494.41	
3 years Premium on Blanket Bonds 4/30/57 - 4/30/60	1,979.35	
Accident Insurance	72.11	
Legal Service	5,000.02	
Telephone etc., Legal Service	35.12	
Assessment Transportation secretary	25.00	
Account Receivable - Dr. John R. C. Haas	300.00	
Safe Deposit Box 4/28/57 - 4/28/58	11.00	
		$147,590.45
Bank Balance, February 1, 1958		$ 20,782.26

Accounts Receivable.

Dr. James E. Wagner	1,500.00
Dr. Sheldon E. Mackey.....	2,500.00
Dr. John R. C. Haas	300.00
	4,300.00

DATA ABOUT THE MAGYAR SYNOD

The 50 congregations are located in 11 States; total (1956) membership, 8528; total (1956) Sunday School enrollment, 3371; 37 active ordained pastors; 1 student pastor; 1 "privilege of call" pastor;- total 39 pastors.

Distance from Wallingford to Miami about 1400 miles; from Wallingford to Joliet or Chicago, Illinois about 900 miles.

Geographical Grouping:

EASTERN AREA:	7 States:								
Conn.	4	Churches	1138	Members	959	Sunday	School	Enrollment
N. J.	4	"	892	"	355	"	"	"
N. Y.	2	"	369	"	26	"	"	"
Fla.	1	"	115	"	---			
Va.	1	"	20	"	---			
W. Va.	2	"	26	"	29			
Pa.	2	"	163	"	55	"	"	"
	16	"	2723	"	1424	"	"	"
PITTSBURGH AREA:	2 States:							
Pa.	11	Churches	1149	Members	446	Sunday	School	Enrollment
W. Va.	1	"	36	"	6	"	"	"
	12	"	1185	"	452	"	"	"
LAKESIDE AREA:	3 States:							
Ohio	9	Churches	3031	Members	942	Sunday	School	Enrollment
Pa.	1	"	17	"	---			
Mich.	1	"	248	"	45	"	"	"
	11	"	3296	"	987	"	"	"
WESTERN AREA:	3 States:							
Mich.	3	Churches	246	Members	45	Sunday	School	Enrollment
Ind.	5	"	636	"	237	"	"	"
Ill.	3	"	442	"	226	"	"	"
	11	"	1324	"	508	"	"	"

The memberships of the 50 congregations in 1956 were as follows:-

1100	370	248	196	147	108	90	56	36	17
602	345	243	160	146	108	83	54	35	14
462	336	225	160	136	106	69	43	30	12
461	273	223	156	122	101	56	42	24	10
375	261	206	149	115	93	56	41	20	7

33 pastors are graduates from Seminaries other than E. & R.
3 " " " " Lancaster Seminary
1 " is " of former Central Seminary
1 student pastor (in Seminary other than E. & R.)
1 "privilege of call" pastor (other than E. & R. Seminary graduate).
The oldest church was organized in 1891 in Cleveland: The oldest church built is First Church, Pittsburgh; dedicated Oct. 1892.
The net gain in membership during the merger period (1941-1956): 1545
Mission aid has been extended to nearly all of these churches at one time or other. Only 10 churches at present remain on the mission roll.

SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

Besides the Magyar Synod in our E. & R. Church, there are 12 other Magyar congregations, located in 6 States, as well as in 6 Synods: total 1956 membership 2754: total 1956 Sunday School Enrollment 1119.

Ohio	3 Churches	N Y	3 Churches
Penna.	1 Church	Wis.	2 Churches
Conn.	1 Church	Calif.	2 Churches

The grand total Magyar Churches in our E. & R. Church:
62 congregations; 1956 membership 11,282; 1956 Sunday School Enrollment 4490.

EXTRA DENOMINATIONAL DATA

Outside our E. & R. Church are four other groups, also Calvinist Hungarian Churches:
49 congregations; total membership 15,580.

1. Presbyterian Church, U. S. A.: 23 congregations; membership 6,230.

N. J.	5 Churches	Ohio	7 Churches
N. Y.	1 Church	Ill.	1 Church
Penna.	8 Churches	Ind.	1 Church

2. Free Magyar Church (recently admitted to National Council of Churches):
20 congregations; membership 7,100.

N. J.	5 Churches	Penna.	4 Churches	Mich.	1 Church
N. Y.	7 Churches	Ohio	1 Church	Calif.	1 Church
Canada	1 Church				

3. Reformed Church in America (Dutch): 3 congregations in N. J.; membership 1500.
4. There are 3 other Calvinist Magyar Churches, completely independent:
membership 750. Mich. 1 Church, Ohio 1 Church, ? 1 Church.

The grand total of all these Calvinist Magyar Churches in U. S. & Can. is 111.
Total membership 26,862.

The Old Folks & Children's Homes at Ligonier, Penna. are jointly supported by all these churches, through the Hungarian Federation of Churches in America.

There is a free flow on the pastoral level between all these churches.

A common language, heritage, and culture have been the deep binding cords between all these Magyar groups.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE
TO STUDY THE PROGRAMS AND FACILITIES OF THE SEMINARIES

In accord with the action of General Synod at Lancaster in 1956 providing that a special committee be appointed

> "(1) To study the facilities and programs of the three seminaries and to bring in recommendations for the development and expansion of the same; and
>
> (2) To explore the advisability of creating a permanent committee on Theological Education",

the undersigned committee was appointed.

PROCEDURE

The committee spent two days at each seminary, attended classes, met with the faculty, consulted with president and dean, looked over budgets, inspected all physical facilities, and met informally with students and faculty as individuals. Later, we consulted with the executive secretary of the Commission on Church and Ministry and corresponded with the Chairman of the Commission on Higher Education regarding prospects for future enrollments, post-B.D. training for pastors, and the possible establishment of a "Permanent Committee on Theological Education" and its relationships to other boards and agencies of the Church.

The administrative officers and faculties of the seminaries seemed not only to be pleased, but genuinely appreciative of having a committee authorized by General Synod to visit them. To them, it was evidence of vital interest on the part of the denomination in their program and work. Their reaction to the visit seemed to indicate the value of such a committee for reasons of morale as well as for someone to speak to the Church on their behalf.

With exceptions to be noted later, we were pleased with the standards, equipment, curricula, and general atmosphere of our seminaries. The faculties are alert to the changing trends of current theological education and are studying their curricula and programs in the light of the "Study of Theological Education in Emerica" sponsored by the American Association of Theological Schools.

The committee is convinced that there is a definite need for the denominational seminary, comparatively small, and giving primary emphasis to the preparation of pastors, rather than to research and graduate study. At the same time, we feel that more of our seminary graduates should be encouraged to do graduate work in the larger seminaries and to contribute to the scholarly life of the church.

There are definite advantages in the location of such a seminary in an urban area having a variety of social institutions and cultural opportunities where students may gain a well-rounded, vital, practical education. There are also definite advantages in the location of a seminary near the center of a large population of its own church.

Our seminaries could do an even better job than they are doing if they were larger, that is, if they had more facilities and larger faculties. If they are to meet the challenge of today, and advance, the church must provide increased financial support.

SPECIFIC NEEDS

The needs of Eden Seminary and Lancaster Seminary are largely for expansion and strengthening of their present positions.

Eden anticipates a student body of 200 to 250 in the near future (perhaps five years). Lancaster anticipates 150 students in that time. Both are in immediate need of living quarters for married students. Eden will also require a new library for an expanded student body and Lancaster will need extensive remodeling of some of its present facilities or replacement of its present library and addition of new classrooms. It also faces the need for additional land and is taking steps to acquire adjacent property. Without analyzing too closely the estimated cost of these improvements, we feel that in excess of one and a half million dollars must be provided over a period of five to ten years.

We believe the interests of the church require denomination-wide response to these capital needs, and recommend that General Council give consideration to methods of obtaining the funds needed so that our seminaries can be ready to serve the enlarged student bodies the Advance Program demands.

We also recommend an increased level of annual support for current operational expense, principally to provide increased salaries for faculty members, which will be comparable with those paid by similar seminaries of other denominations.

At Mission House, we note an apparently strong curriculum and faculty, with a group of loyal alumni, and a faithful constituency which has made a notable contribution to our church. In spite of these strengths, there are grave weaknesses. There is an endowment of only about $75,000.00. The seminary has no buildings, except eleven houses used by seminary and college faculty members. It rents space from Lakeland College which is badly needed by the college for its own purposes. It has a limited library, is isolated from any strong cultural center, and is unable under present circumstances to become accredited. Its student body (about 30) is far too small for efficient operation, for to have a curriculum of even minimum adequacy, it is necessary to have a faculty of at least five or six, which makes the ratio of students to faculty too small and thereby too costly. Best estimates

seem to indicate that it costs $1900.00 per student per year to operate Mission House, while at Lancaster and Eden, it costs about $1100.00 per student. Despite this, salaries here are less than three-fourths of those in the larger schools.

We believe it unsound and uneconomical for the church to continue to subsidize such a program when an equal amount could provide for a much greater number of students in either of the other two schools.

Various alternatives have been suggested:

1. Relocation in a larger city in the present geographical area.

2. Establishment of a new seminary with the present faculty and curriculum in an area not now served, such as the Pacific Northwest.

3. Merger of Mission House faculty and resources with one or both of our other seminaries, with the financial support which is now given to Mission House going to strengthen the other seminaries.

With respect to (1), we feel that whatever is done should be planned in the larger perspective of the United Church of Christ. Except for the present small constituency of Mission House, this area is served by Eden Seminary and the Federated Seminary of Chicago. To move across the state of Wisconsin would leave the seminary still in an area of low population and with no large church constituency from which to draw students.

With respect to (2), the same factors have a bearing. Further, if the seminary were moved to the Pacific Northwest to meet a need expressed by the Washington Council of Churches, we need to be aware that the need is not for a denominational seminary but rather for a federated one.

Either of these courses would require a large capital expenditure and heavy subsidization. It would be a missionary venture, but would help little in meeting the need for ministers in our own church. The committee feels that either of these ventures, if attempted at all, should be done by the United Church of Christ.

The recommendation of the committee is that course (3) be followed. In this case, we would husband our resources, handle an increased number of students, and use to the best our available money. We feel the faculty of Mission House Seminary might be happier thus merged because they would be meeting a greater need, working with a broader cross-section of students, and having a greater opportunity to influence the church at large. In view of the sacrifices these men are now making and the severe handicaps under which they are working, we have serious questions as to whether a school in such straits will be able to retain men of such stature for long. They could well be used on the faculties of the other two seminaries.

POST-B.D. STUDY

The Study previously referred to urges a plan of post-seminary study for pastors. The Commission on Church and Ministry and the seminaries are cooperating in the experimental inauguration of such a plan, and we look forward to its beginning in the summer of 1959.

PERMANENT COMMITTEE ON THEOLOFICAL EDUCATION

We recommend the establishment of a standing committee on theological education to be charged with:

1. Frequent consultation with the seminaries through their administrative officers so that it may interpret the needs of the seminaries to the church.

2. Consultation with the Commission on Church and Ministry so that it may interpret the needs of the church to the seminaries.

3. Evaluation and presentation of the financial needs of the seminaries to General Synod, local synods, and churches.

We recommend that, for the present at least, it be a sub-committee of the Commission on Higher Education, and that it be composed of one minister and one layman from that Commission, one member of the Commission on Church and Ministry, a parish minister, and a member of a Synodical Committee on Church and Ministry. The first three would be elected by the respective commissions and the latter two appointed by General Council.

This recommended approach is proposed as a temporary measure for the Evangelical and Reformed Church for the interim period, and is not to be construed as a proposed design for the United Church of Christ. Its immediate formation is proposed in order that present needs of the church and seminaries may be met. It is ideal neither for the present Evangelical and Reformed Church nor for the long-term needs of the United Church of Christ, but it could be put in operation immediately and, we think, without change of constitution or by-laws.

The Committee respectfully submits this report and asks to be discharged.

Donald L. Helfferich
Gustav J. Krumm
Arthur W. Newell
Theodore J. Rasche
W. Lloyd Snyder, Jr.
Russell C. Eroh, Secretary
Donald C. Dearborn, Chairman

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF CENTRAL PENNA. SYNOD

to THE GENERAL COUNCIL, EVANGELICAL & REFORMED CHURCH

FOR THE YEAR 1957

The President of Central Penna. Synod offers the following report:

1. Personal Activities of Official Capacity:
   a). Conducted divine services and/or preached 50 times, visited congregations on 23 other occasions, attended 14 congregational meetings of business or social nature.
   b). Held 42 conferences with pastors, students and laymen, met 33 times with consistories, seven times with Church and Ministry committies.
   c). Held six Synodical Council meetings, met twelve times with Synodical Committees, and nineteen times with area ministerial groups.
   d). Met with men, women and youth groups 30 times.
   e). Directed the Every Congregation Visitation program.
   f). On the denominational level represented Synod at the Merger Synod, President's meeting, etc.
   g). Interdenominationally represented Synod at Pembroke Conference, University Christian Association Board of Penn State University, and various meetings of the Penna. Council of Churches.
   h). Kept pastors, consistories and local church groups, as well as Synodical groups infomed thru a News Letter sent to more than 200 key persons of Synod each month.
   i). Set up programs and directed both the Spring and Fall meetings of Synod, edited and prepared a Synod White Book for Spring meeting of Synod.

2. By authorization of Synod a new house was purchased for the Synod headquarters and residence of the President at 351 Homan Ave., State College.

3. With the exception of the fact that there are eight vacant Charges in Synod (including 25% of our congregations), which is dealing a blow to the Benevolence work of Synod, the spirit of Synod is good. Our women's work is completely organized. Three of the six Synodical areas now have organized men's work. Youth work is also organized in three of the Synodical areas.

Respectfully submitted,

Bert E Wynn

Bert E. Wynn
Full-time President.

ANNUAL REPORT TO GENERAL COUNCIL

BY Frank W. Teske

EAST PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD

1. I have endeavored to direct the work of East Pennsylvania Synod by presenting the program of the Church at Sunday services and attending to other duties in accordance with the By-Law. Here is a brief statistical report: Presented program of the Church at Sunday services 54 times; met with consistories and pulpit committees 33 times; held 18 conferences with pastors; Synodical Council and Synod Committee meetings 31; ordinations, installations, and dedication 16; meetings outside of Synod 11.

2. Conducted an every congregation visitation in February. The program of Advance was presented by 38 ministers and laymen to 72 congregations out of the 74 in Synod. We were gratified with the interest shown by the congregations and had great hope for the apportionment. However, during the last three months of the year we experienced work cuts to 3 days a week in the heavy industries and a number of layoffs. We still believe that we will show a respectable gain over last year.

3. A Fellowship Dinner was held at Buckhill Inn, Buckhill Falls, Penna. on November 13th. About 150 ministers and laymen from East Pennsylvania Synod and 75 ministers and laymen from the Middle Atlantic and Pennsylvania Conferences attended.

4. Pulpit Exchange - 28 ministers exchanged pulpits with ministers of the C. C. Churches in Connecticut, Massachusetts and New Hampshire. The exchange took place the last of October and the beginning of November.

5. Synod sent a letter asking consistories to evaluate the salary of their pastors. The result has been gratifying. We now have only one pastor who receives less than $4,000. and parsonage and he is beyond the retiring age.

6. Due to ministers retiring and leaving the Synod we have four vacant charges. We hope to fill a few of these from the senior class, but believe that some will not be filled until the class of 1959 graduates.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank W. Teske

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF KANSAS CITY SYNOD FOR 1957
TO THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED CHURCH

GREETINGS!

As indicated above this is my report as president of Kansas City Synod to General Council for the year 1957.

Being the first year of the triennium the Program of Advance, as adopted by General Synod was emphasized in all areas of church work, priority being given to those Boards and Agencies which were zoned to Synod since September, 1956. Consequently a series of meetings under the guidance of the Synodical Committee on Evangelism with Rev. Robert A. Happel of the Commission on Evangelism were held. The Synodical Committee is doing a good bit of follow-up work on this program.

Christian Social Action is carrying out its program since September 1957 as a united effort, the Committee of Synod and the Committee of the several State Conferences, in consultation with the respective denominational agencies, covering the entire area of these groups with a series of meetings in which leaders on the national as well as synodical and congregational levels were used. Rev. Chester Marcus and Rev. Nelson Schlegel of the Commission on Christian Social Action of our denomination were active in this program. Meetings thus far held have been attended by approximately 500 members of the United Church.

Synod cooperated in carrying out the suggested United Church Nights and within the area of Synod eight such meetings were held with approximately 1200 people in attendance. With but few exceptions all congregations shared in this program. The films, "The Youngest Church" and "On The Threshold", as well as other materials were used. Some follow-up work is being done in smaller areas through the cooperation of Town and Country Churches and plans are being considered whereby groups may be brought together in order to provide a more effective ministry in rural areas.

A spendid spirit of cooperation is manifested by our churches in the support given the Program of Advance as indicated in the financial undergirding through the Apportionment and World Service programs. A year ago a new method of apportionment assignment was instituted. Synod in Spring Meeting, 1957, voted to continue this method for the second year of the triennium. At this writing it can be stated what the results of such a venture are, however, as of this date Synod has raised 118% of its World Service goal and approximately 91% of its apportionment goal.

Respectfully submitted,

A. H. Wegener

Kansas City, Mo.
January 14, 1958

Lancaster Synod of The Evangelical and Reformed Church

REV. TRUMAN A. CRIST, D.D.
President
3100 Brookwood Street Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
Telephone CEdar 8-8789

REPORT TO GENERAL COUNCIL - 1957

Lancaster Synod - Truman A. Crist, President

As stated in my last report, I have sincerely tried to represent the Church in all my contacts with ministers, laymen, consistories, congregations, auxiliary organizations, interdenominational and civic groups. I have tried to uphold the faith and polity of the denomination, interpreting to the best of my ability, as need arose, the Constitution and By-Laws of the Church. In every contact I made I was aware of the obligation I had to be a creditable agent of the General Council.

By far the most fruitful project sponsored by Synod in 1957 was the Every Congregation Visitation as planned by the Department of United Promotion. More than 100 ministers and laymen cooperated in making the visits, and all reported satisfaction in this kind of service. All congregations, save one, testified to the worth of the project. Signs of increased interest in the total program of the Church have been seen frequently during the year. The increased giving, while it has not resulted in 100% of the Advance goal, has resulted in approximately $50,000 more revenue than last year, a per capita increase of $1.65. That the Advance has taken root can be seen in other departments of church life as well. A new sense of mission is evident, even among the very young. I sense that more children and young people are at least thinking of the ministry as one of the careers open to them. The congregations, for the most part, are putting more emphasis on program and work through committees. All of these things, I believe, were pointed up by the Advance visitations.

Under the direction of an alert Committee on National Missions, three new mission projects were begun during the year. An old congregation, formerly a part of the Blue Ridge Charge, and before that a part of the Paxton Charge, became an independent congregation under the care of the Mission Board and Synod, called a pastor to make it a mission church in an area with rather high potential. A former Roman Catholic church building, parsonage and property in Hershey, Pa., was purchased. A minister will begin work in April of this (1958) year, and renovations will be made under Synod direction. 50 members of the Union Deposit congregation will become affiliated with this new mission. On Sunday, July 7, 1957, a very impressive service was held in the Elizabethville, Pa., church marking the inauguration of the Up-Lyn Group Ministry in the Upper Dauphin and Lykens Valley Charges of seven congregations. An interne seminarian was called to assist the two resident pastors in the enlarged services to the congregations and the community. A very impressive program has been carried on in the area, demonstrating what can be done in a project of this kind. Synod is also giving attention to Faith Church, Lancaster, and the Warwick Charge, to help them meet the challenge with which they are confronted.

Emphasis on Christian Education and Evangelism continues under the direction of able committees. Commendable work is being done by the Town and Country and the Church and Ministry committees. All other committees are also doing good work in making the program of the denomination vital on the local level.

1957 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
PRESIDENT OF LEHIGH SYNOD, EVANGELICAL & REFORMED CHURCH
TO THE GENERAL COUNCIL

A sincere attempt was made throughout the year to promote and serve both the local synod and the denomination. Worthy of your attention are the following items:

1. With National Missions, Evangelism and Christian Education zoned to us, we have (1) prepared the groundwork for a new mission church within the synod, (Hamilton Park, Allentown), (2) undertaken a pilot project in evangelism for the Commission on Evangelism, (3) stepped up subscriptions to "The Messenger".

2. In February we followed the carefully made plans of the Department of United Promotion in conducting an Every Congregation Visitation. Seventy-eight of our eighty-five congregations were included in this visit which certainly helped greatly in our "Advance" program.

3. I continued to serve on the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Council of Churches, thereby aiding in the representation of the United Church of Christ in this important interdenominational body.

4. It was my privilege during the year to serve as fraternal delegate to the Congregational-Christian Conference Superintendents' Meeting at Buck Hill Falls, Pennsylvania; to serve as a member of the special committee to plan the Presidents' Conference for 1957; to be a part of the informal study group at Pembrooke Conference Grounds, New Hampshire; and to be a fraternal delegate to the Eastern Regional Meeting of the Congregational-Christian Churches at Holyoke, Mass.

Respectfully submitted,

Chas. D. Rodenberger

Chas. D. Rodenberger

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF MERCERSBURG SYNOD FOR 1957
TO THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST (E. AND R.)

The year 1957 was significant in the life of Synod with notable progress along several lines. May I hasten to add, however, that whatever has been accomplished is due primarily to the splendid cooperation of Pastors and congregations, responsible lay leaders, the Boards and Agencies of the Church. To these individuals and groups as well as to Synod Council, Pres. Wagner, and other Denominational Executives, I am deeply indebted and again voice appreciation for the joy and privilege of serving and promoting the interests of Mercersburg Synod and our beloved Church.

In keeping with Bylaw 66 which provides that a full time president is to "direct, supervise and promote the work of the Church" within his Synod and to report annually to the General Council, I, therefore, submit the following summary for 1957.

1957 was the first year of the Advance and the new triennium. Considerable effort and planning was directed to the "Every Congregation Visitation" (Jan. 28 - Mar. 6) with 103 of our 106 congregations visited by 36 teams. Dr. Larry Miller conducted the Training Session on Jan. 14 with all 36 teams represented. That the Advance Program was well received may be gathered from typical comments reported to my office such as - "great interest shown.....real enthusiasm.....goals reasonable.....goals too low..... grasped larger meaning of Advance Program.....attitude changing from what is least we can do to what is our responsibility?.....widened horizons and heightened vision.....,etc."

Already some of the fruits of the "Every Congregation Visitation" and Advance Program are evident, for example - 100% Messenger Congregations have grown from two to nine; Synod Committee on Evangelism has organized 10 teams for congregational visitation if and when their services are desired during 1958; the goals of the current triennium and the 28% Apportionment increase were quite generally accepted. Although the final figure on General Synod Apportionment is not available at this writing, the 1957 percentage should equal or better 1956 which was 98%+. Our World Service giving has already surpassed all previous records with Synod's first Heifer Project being a contributing factor (31 heifers were shipped over-seas in September). Fortunately, there were no zero congregations in benevolent or World Service giving. Other Synod Committees are now implementing the Advance Program wherever possible and feasible.

PREACHING AND OTHER APPOINTMENTS DURING 1957 ARE SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS:

74 - Sunday appointments (occasionally 2 or 3 a Sunday) including Ordination and Commissioning Services, installations, dedications, anniversaries, Rally Day Services, elections, regular preaching, etc.
45 - Meetings with Synod Council, Consistories, and congregations.
30 - Synod Committee meetings.
216 - Visits with Ministers, students for the Ministry, lay people (at Pres. office, home, or Church).
16 - Board Meetings (regular or special) Homewood, Camp Michaux, and Hoffman Home.
10 - Ministerium Meetings (local or areas of Synod).
8 - Meetings of Inter-Synod and Synodical Comm. on Heifer Project.

THROUGH SYNOD OFFICE

Issued - Keynotes (Winter, Fall, and Christmas) to Ministers and Women's Guild Presidents and regional guild officers;

Annual Report of The President of Mercersburg Synod for 1957 (Cont.)

Prepared - 3 Synod News Letters to Messenger (Jan., June, Dec., 1957); Annual reports to General Council and for Spring Synod; Spring and Fall Synod programs; Summary of Fall Conference for all Pastors and delegates.

Processed - Elective Committee reports in advance of Spring Meeting and other reports during the year.

Handled - A great variety and volume of correspondence official and otherwise.

IN THE CHURCH AT LARGE

Attended - Uniting General Synod, Cleveland - June 25-27; Synod Presidents Meeting, Columbus - Sept. 11-13; National Town and Country Committee Meeting, Lancaster; Inter-Synodical Committee Meeting on Student Work.

Served - As member of Board of Visitors of Lancaster Seminary. In this capacity I attended five regular and special meetings and served as a member of the Joint Planning Committee and Committee to Examine Seminary Seniors.

Shared - in ten meetings on Union Church matters including Policy on Union Church, study committees, etc.; also held meeting with all Pastors of Synod serving in Union Churches (June 4 - with Dr. Alfred Bartholomew as leader).

AS REPRESENTATIVE OF SYNOD IN ECUMENICAL AND INTER-DENOMINATIONAL MATTERS

Served - as Chairman of Division of Inter-Church Relations of the Penna. Council of Churches (shared in 8 county meetings in Harrisburg and other parts of the state); served as worship leader - 1957 State Pastors Conference, Harrisburg.

Attended - Annual Assembly of Penna. Council of Churches in Wilkes-Barre; 9 meetings of Board of Directors and Inter-Council Exec. Comm. of Council; participated in United Church Fund Campaign efforts.

Interpreted - United Church of Christ (Merger of E. and R. and Congregational Christian Churches) to organizations and Congregations of Synod and elsewhere (9 occasions). Three Area Fellowship Dinners, celebrating the Merger, were observed with over 700 in attendance.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES ENGAGED IN

Governor's Conference on Mental Health.

Attended Inaugurations of Pres. Bolman of F. and M. College and Pres. Moss of the Theological Seminary.

Served on panel at Lancaster Seminary and P.T.A. of Carlisle Junior High School; F. and M. College Fund Campaign.

Conducted 6 radio broadcasts (WHYL-Carlisle); 10 baptisms, 2 weddings, and 3 funerals.

Speaker - Lenten Services; Franklin Co. S.S. Assoc. Dist. #3 Convention; Homewood Church Home Twenty-fifth Anniversary (Hagerstown Unit); Thank-offering Service, Grace Church, Wash. D.C.; Mercersburg Academy Chapel.

Both the Ministers and lay people of Mercersburg Synod have been genuinely helpful in matters affecting its welfare. For this I express the gratitude of Synod as well as our entire Church. Thankful for the measure of health and strength which enabled me to keep all Synod appointments during 1957, I look forward to a new and even more promising year as our Church life and labors are geared more completely in the United Church of Christ.

January 8 1958

Sincerely yours,

James W. Moyer

James W. Moyer, President

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF MICHIGAN-INDIANA SYNOD TO THE GENERAL COUNCIL - 1957
(According to provision of By-Law 62p)

The year 1957 was my first full year in the office of full time Synod president.

1. In promoting the work of the Church as well as in helping the program of local congregations I feel that my most effective work has been done in weekend visits to congregations. In these visits I usually meet with the consistory on Saturday evening, visit the Sunday Church School and preach in the morning worship service on Sunday morning, and meet with a larger group of church leaders (officers of organizations, teachers and officers of Sunday School, members of consistory, etc.) on Sunday afternoons or evenings. The schedule of these meetings varies somewhat to meet particular local needs. In several instances I have also been asked to meet with some special group in a local church in addition to the usual meetings. I started these visitations in 1956, making, however, only one such visit toward the end of that year. During 1957 I visited 34 congregations in this manner.

In addition to these 34 congregations I met with groups or spoke in services or meetings in 27 additional congregations during the past year. During the one year and four months since I have been in office I have worked in some manner in a total of 73 congregations.

2. Through the Committee on United Promotion we conducted an Every Congregation Visitation in the month of September. Thirty-three teams took part in this visitation, each team, with one or two exceptions, consisting of a pastor, layman, lay woman and young person. Seven of the 102 congregations were not visited in this manner, though in three of these the Advance was presented through some other procedure.

3. Synod adopted an Advance Program at the spring meeting to undergird the Advance of the Church and to implement the Advance on the congregational as well as synodical levels. This program looks forward to strengthening the life in each local congregation through increased church attendance, growth in membership, a self-study in the local congregation, and the strengthening of its financial situation. It also stresses the enlistment of young people in church vocations, increased support of the benevolent institutions, colleges and seminaries, starting at least one new church each year in Synod, developing Synod's camp facilities, and the strengthening of the religious life in student centers on campuses. This program was presented to the congregations in the visitation in September through a special brochure and color filmstrip.

4. Each month Synod mails out the SYNOD NEWS, a duplicated newsletter containing items of development within the Synod as well as within the Church at large. It is sent free of charge at present to about 650 people, including at least four people from each congregation.

5. A number of the synodical committees have strengthened the work of the Church through increased activity. The Committees on Christian Education, National Missions, Camp, United Promotion, and Church and Ministry have continued their effective work. Others, as for example, Churchmen's Brotherhood, Town and Country Church, Evangelism, and Christian Social Action, have taken significant steps forward. The work of the Churchmen's Brotherhood has been greatly strengthened in Synod during the past year. An emphasis on Evangelism is being planned for 1958 and early 1959.

6. Other phases of my work in promoting the work of the Church consist in the writing of many letters, visiting with pastors, meeting with synodical committees, and participating in various programs within the synod and denomination whenever possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Henry G. Kroehler, President,
Michigan-Indiana Synod

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF MIDWEST SYNOD FOR THE YEAR 1957

To The General Council Of The Evangelical and Reformed Church:

The work of the Evangelical and Reformed Church was directed, supervised and promoted in Midwest Synod by the president in the following ways:

1. By using the opportunities presented by his preaching and visiting duties
   a) In the two years since taking office, all but five of the churches of Midwest Synod have been visited in some capacity.
   b) All the churches of the former Nebraska Synod and their pastors were visited on a tour undertaken shortly after the formation of Midwest Synod. Fifty-three churches and twenty-nine pastors were visited.
   c) The president preached thirty-five times at churches, spoke eight times for other gatherings, took part in services eight additional times, and met with committees of congregations twenty-seven times.
   d) The president had twenty-seven personal interviews with pastors and students. This in addition to those interviews held at time of conferences and meetings and on the Nebraska tour.
   e) Full time Christian Service students at Elmhurst College, Lakeland College, Mission House Seminary and Eden Seminary were visited by the president.
   f) The president attended twenty meetings of synod committees and fifteen conferences of the synod.
   g) The president represented Midwest Synod at eight state meetings and nine national meetings.
2. By issuing six Synod Newsletters and countless personal correspondence with pastors and congregations.
3. By planning for and conducting an Every Congregation Visitation with the help of the United Promotion Committee. Sixty pastors and lay people made up the teams which visited all but two of the churches of Synod. 2600 pastors and lay people were reached by this program.
4. By planning for and conducting six consistorial conferences in the Iowa Synod in January. Dr. Harold Wilke spoke on Pastoral Relations and Rev. Philip Fischer did some promotional work for Heifer Projects Inc.
5. By planning with Dr. Judson Fiebiger, superintendent of the Congregational Christian Conference of Iowa for a pulpit exchange on October 27, 1957, in which some twenty-five pastors of each denomination took part, and for six Fellowship Dinners in October 1957 with over 1000 people in attendance.
6. By planning for and conducting six Fall Synod Meetings in the regions of Synod. 611 pastors and lay people were in attendance. The work of the Board of National Missions, the Board of Business Management and the Commission on Evangelism was presented by their representatives and the work of the Benevolent Institutions of the Synod was presented by their representatives.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ernst Press

Ernst Press, President.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE MISSOURI VALLEY SYNOD FOR 1957

To the General Council of the Evangelical and Reformed Church:

Direction, supervision and promotion to the work of the Evangelical and Reformed Church was given by the president of the Missouri Valley Synod in the following ways:-

1) Arranged and did all the staff work for the Every Congregation Visitation. Thirty teams visited most of the churches. I have made arrangements to personally visit the congregations that did not want the Every Congregation Visitation. In most instances these churches are not too denominationally minded.

2) Attended 52 synodical committee meetings which correspond to the Boards and Commissions of our church.

3) Preached 52 times, some for special occasions, other times presenting the work of the denomination. Spoke 6 times for other meetings. Officiated or participated at 7 installations and 4 ordinations.

4) Met with pulpit committees 13 times, Church Councils 10 times, attended 6 congregational meetings.

5) Had 47 personal interviews with pastors and individual members of churches.

6) Was present at 38 gatherings (Brotherhood Federation, Women's Guild, Youth, Ministerium)

7) Synod had 6 Social Action Workshops, 3 International Mission Institutes, 3 day Visitation Evangelism program. 20 churches were visited by Evangelism Field Worker. Planned and conducted 4 Fall Synod Meetings.

8) Worked with Extension Committee of the Evangelical and Reformed Federation in making surveys in 5 St. Louis County areas. One new church was started on January 6, 1958. Comity granted in 2 additional areas. Spent 2 days with Dr. Claude Snyder evaluating the work and program of the Shannondale project.

9) Assisted in editing and preparing 10 issues of "The Voice of the Valley" which gives news and information about the denomination and activities within synod. 25,000 copies are published monthly.

10) Studies and surveys are being made by Town and Country Committee to determine how churches in rural areas can be better served. Working with other denominations in this area.

11) Attended 33 interdenominational and ecumenical meetings.

The Advance Program has been given emphasis - with special emphasis on commitment.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul H. Rahmeier

Paul H. Rahmeier, president

NORTHEAST OHIO SYNOD
PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT TO GENERAL COUNCIL

Dear Members of General Council:

The following summary is respectfully submitted for your information:

1. Guided by materials and instructions furnished by the Department of United Promotion, the president conducted two training sessions for teams enlisted to share in the Every Congregation Visitation program. A layman and he constituted a team which visited nine churches because of special requests or problem situations.

2. The ADVANCE was presented to regional Women's Guilds and to men's organizations in several areas.

3. A considerable bloc of time was given to the work of the Committee on Local Arrangements for the Uniting General Synod.

4. Members of Synod were encouraged to attend the Men's Convention at Oberlin, Ohio and the Ohio Pastors' Convention at Columbus, Ohio. We urged churches to send members and pastors to workshops, institutes and conferences for in-service training as planned by boards and agencies of the denomination. Frequently we attended personally to gain help for assisting churches in the future.

5. Following the general pattern suggested by the Department of United Promotion, United Church Fellowship Dinners were held in three areas of Synod. We helped plan them and participated in them.

6. Assistance was given the promotion of a series of six regional Christian Social Action institutes in Synod.

7. In order to express the ecumenical witness of the Church "on the local level", the president has been active in Councils of Churches and interdenominational ministerial associations.

8. Along with the other Ohio presidents, we have met with the staff of the Ohio Conference of Congregational Christian Churches to become personally acquainted and to secure information about policy, program and procedure of the Congregational Christians which might be helpful in preparation for a genuine United Church of Christ.

With gratitude for the cooperation, friendship and guidance from our denominational leaders, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Elam G. Wiest

Elam G. Wiest

EGW:as
December 20, 1957

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF NORTHERN SYNOD
1957

The the General Council of the Evangelical and Reformed Church:

I - It is my practice to attend all the Committee meetings of Synod. This gives me the opportunity to encourage them to implement the objectives of the National Boards and to promote the larger program of the Church. As a result, the following has been done during 1957:

1 - Committee on Christian Education:
   a - Several Workshop for Sunday School Teachers were held in spring.
   b - Dr Robt Koenig and Mr Loren Walters met in four Regions with the pastors to explain the theological and pedagogical background of our materials.
   c - Children's Clinics for Teachers were held in the fall.
   d - More active work among students on the campuses of our State.
   e - Cooperating with the CC Churches in Camping program, and the plan to purchase a site for this kind of work.

2 - The Committee on United Promotion held six clinics just before the customary season of Kingdom Roll Calls in churches.

3 - The Committee on International Missions again arranged for an itinerary in our Synod this past fall.

4 - The Committee on Christian Social Action held an institute on Indian Work in the Twin City Area.

5 - The Committee on Town and Country held two workshops in order to promote more effective programs for rural churches.

6 - The Committee on National Missions came to the assistance of our Mission Church, when St Mark's experienced difficulties in meeting its budget.

7 - Committee on Church and Ministry:
   a - Held an institute for laymen, interested in learning how to conduct a worship service and prepare a sermon or religious address, with a view of helping out in smaller churches, or in their own church upon need.
   b - Held a retreat for pastors and wives at Carleton College in fall as part of in service training.

II - Trained 22 teams, involving some 50 pastors and laymen and laywomen, to visit all of our churches in behalf of our Program of Advance for this triennium.

III - Northern Synod extends over 700 miles and covers portions of 5 states. This circumstance entails matters such as these:
   1 - Driving the team of speakers to all five regions of synod this fall, made a trip of 2057 miles.
   2 - I spend considerable time visiting pastors in isolated charges in order to give them the feeling of "belonging."

IV - The decline of our rural population:
   1 - Many of our rural congregations are facing an increased difficult problem of being able to survive, and I am studying the various parishes involved, hoping to discover ways of realignment that may strengthen or save our situation.
   2 - In the Perham- Wadena yoked field, we were able to find a happy solution, by swapping churches with the Congregational Conference.

V - Northern Synod was happy to join, for the first time, the roster of Synods meeting their apportionment in full.

Respectfully submitted,

N. Reitschneider

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE GENERAL COUNCIL
by William L. Rest, President
North Illinois Synod

In accordance with By-law 62p, I wish to present the following report:

1. I have sought to "direct and supervise" the work of the Church in our Synod by faithful attendance at and by giving council to the committees of Synod which correspond to the Board and Commissions of our Church. Among the more significant things accomplished are the following:

a- Our United Promotion Committee has again provided Kingdom Roll Call Clinics according to the pattern of the Dept. of United Promotion. The results are being manifested in the increasing local programs made possible by more adequate financing, increased Pastors' salaries, and enlarged giving to benevolent causes, including the apportionment.

b- Our Committee on Christian Education, conducts "Preview" Workshops on Church and Home material. Since Fall in co-operation with the C-C group.

c- Our Committee on Evangelism held a "Pilot Project" to gain experience for a 1958 Evangelism effort. 12 Churches participated in the Pilot project. They report an increase of some 150 members as a result.

d- Our Town and Country Committee is seeking to develop a more meaningful program for our Town and Country Churches. This also is co-operation with the C-C Committee on Town and Country.

e- We have organized a "City Church" goup, which has sought to study the problems of our Synod in preparation for the City Church Convocation.

f- Our Committee on National Missions began work in five new areas and was able to organize two new congregations. Attendance at another now is over 100 per Sunday. They will organize in January. Attendance at another is now about 80 per Sunday. They will organize before Easter. The Preliminary canvassing is now finished in the fifth. Already some 50 persons have committed themselves to this new church and another 70 have indicated a high degree of interest. We now are projecting 4 to 6 new churches in 1958 - if the Board of National Missions can afford them.

g- Our Committee on Social Action has been re-established and is beginning to meet regularly.

h- Our Committee on International Missions is seeking to take advantage of the extra help offered by the Board in this year of Zonal emphasis.

i- The other committees have functioned.

2. Our "Operation-Expanding Horizons" seems to be off to a good start. We have an operating budget of $50,000.00. And a Capital Funds Budget of some $90,000. The latter was only partly subscribed during this first year, since General Synod's apportionment and Synods Benevolence made it necessary to ask just double the amount of Benevolence of Previous years. Never-the-leas, we were able to purchase five parsonages for the new Mission Churches.

3. Because of our enlarged Budget and Real Estate holdings it became necessary for Synod to be incorporated this year.

4. We have formed a "Study and Advisory Council" with the South Illinois Synod and the Illinois Conference of the C-C Church to study the problems of merger in Illinois, and to institute various co-operative work.

5. I still feel that my greatest service was rendered in the personal visitations I have made in almost one hundred of the churches of our Synod.

Respectfully submitted,
William L. Rest

Report of Philadelphia Synod's President for the year 1957.
To The General Council of the Evangelical and Reformed Church.

Dear Brethren:

1 - Our Every Congregation Visitation might rightly head the list of major "doings" of 1957, for it was held January 7 to 31 and it was "tops" in experience (so many reported). We may conduct another next year.

2 - A union (with C.C.s) mass service of celebration of the formation of the United Church was held June 30 p.m. with over 1200 overflowing our largest sanctuary. About that time our Philadelphia City pastors and all the C.C. pastors formed one ministerial association. A Fellowship Dinner with nearly 500 was held jointly with the C.C.s in Town Hall, Philadelphia.

We again participated in a preaching mission with five other synods.

4 - Our Committee on Christian Education held a conference for pastors in April and 3 regional conferences for teachers in September. Regional and Synodical Youth Fellowship conferences and workshops were also held.

5 - Synod nearly doubled the amount asked for church extension, purchased a site and called a pastor to start a new mission, and helped two other established churches with their building projects. Our Philadelphia City pastors met prior to the Convocation on City Church and will meet again soon to determine policy and strengthen our city churches.

9 - Our Committee on United Promotion held 3 clinics in October on the Kingdom Roll Call and with major emphasis on Stewardship. An increasing number of our pastors and laymen testify to the helpfullness of these clinics. World Service was again "easy to sell", and especially Heifer Project.

7 - The Women's Guild again held three regional conferences in April and three regional workshops in October. They were well represented at the Quadrennial. Their work and witness are wonderful.

8 - I served as Advisor and a member of the Brotherhood's Executive Committee, and as such was in a position to render help in planning. Their annual Spring Rally, Summer Retreat at Mensch Mill and Fall Rally were well attended.

9 - Again, last May, a Pre-Synod meeting of all elected committees and Council was held to coordinate the whole program of Synod. This is now considered a "must".

10- Our State Council of Churches and the Philadelphia Council of Churches together with its Department of Research and Planning claim more and more of my interest and time. And this is a good thing (within limits, of course). In this area our Church rates with and is recognized as one of the first six in size and influence. This relativeness will change a little as we become the United Church of Christ, for the C.C.s in this area are about one-eighth as strong; so together (if all of them come along) we will be among the largest Protestant denomination in the greater Philadelphia area.

These are the major matters to which I gave myself so far as to "direct, supervise and promote the work of the Church within the Synod" is concerned. And I thank God and my fellowmen for this privilege.

Respectfully submitted,

Wilmer H. Long

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF PITTSBURGH SYNOD FOR 1957

To the General Council:

In compliance with By-Law 62p of the Church, I am submitting herewith my fifth annual report as full-time President of the Pittsburgh Synod.

Every Congregation Visitation. One of my major tasks during the year was the carrying out of the Every Congregation Visitation for presenting and interpreting the Program of Advance to the congregations of the Synod. I set up the schedule of visits, selected and trained the 36 participating teams of visitors. A training session was held in each of the six areas through which we work in the Synod.

One hundred and twenty of our 150 congregations were visited. Over 2,150 persons attended the meetings in the visitation. The teams reported on interest shown as follows: Good, 76; fair, 34; and indifferent, 3. The reports from congregations visited indicate the following results: Congregations setting goals for membership--congregations, 56; church schools, 49. Attendance goals--congregations, 53; church school, 50. MESSENGER subscription goals--48. Benevolence goals--47.

Apportionment and World Service. Pastors, consistories or church councils, and congregations were encouraged and challenged to meet their full Apportionments and World Service Quotas for the year. The standing of congregations as to payments was published in four issues of the SYNOD NEWS. Following the release of Treasurer Keck's Report for November, I sent a letter and a statement on payments to consistories or church councils of congregations that had not paid at least 11/12ths of their benevolent obligations by December 1. In its contributions to the Apportionment and World Service, the Pittsburgh Synod stood 14th among the Synods on December 1, 1956; on the same date in 1957, it had moved up to 11th place.

Work with Committees, Consistories, and Congregations. I met with the various promotional committees of the Synod to help them plan and carry out programs for promoting the work of the Church in their respective fields. I visited 40 of our congregations; 9 of them more than once. I participated in 49 services, preaching or speaking on 39 different occasions. I held 33 conferences with consistories or church councils and congregational committees. I made 80 calls on pastors.

Fall Meetings of Synod. I made arrangements for and spoke at the Six Area Fall Meetings of Synod, at which phases of the program of the Church were presented.

Pittsburgh Synod News. I edited and managed the publication of the six issues of the PITTSBURGH SYNOD NEWS through which we undertake to promote the program of the Church.

Appreciation. In closing, I express my appreciation to the officers of the Church and to the members of the staffs of the various departments, boards, commissions, and agencies of the Church for their helpful co-operation in carrying out the duties of my office.

Respectfully submitted,

H. W. Black

H. W. Black

HWB/h

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF POTOMAC SYNOD FOR 1957

To the General Council of the Evangelical and Reformed Church:

The most effective effort made in "directing, supervising, and promoting" the work of the denomination by the President of Potomac Synod during 1957 was arranging the every "congregation visitation". One hundred visits were made by thirty-three teams composed of seventy-one laymen and ministers. The attendance and interest at the meetings was very encouraging.

During the year I worked closely with the committees of the Synod. In September the members of synodical Council met with the chairman of the standing committees to report on programs and co-ordinate efforts. In connection with the Committee on National Missions I participated in meetings with the Baltimore study group, attended comity committee meetings of both the Baltimore, Maryland and Washington Council of Churches, and counciled with the new churches in Rockville, Maryland and Hagerstown, Maryland.

In each issue of the Potomac Synod News, which is edited by the president, various aspects of the denominational program were promoted.

To help members of our congregations understand and appreciate the formation of the United Church of Christ I helped to set up fine Fellowship Dinners. The films "The Youngest Church" and "On the Threshold" were very helpful. The booklet "The United Church of Christ" is being distributed widely.

Through the year in visits with congregations I have found the people eager to learn of the program of the Church. This eagerness shows itself especially in meeting with small groups. Here is where I feel the most permanent results can be achieved.

On many occasions I have had to represent and speak for the denomination. As Vice-President of the Maryland-Delaware Council of Churches I have been active in its program. Then too, I have worked with the Virginia Council of Churches and County Councils of Churches.

I have found that the program of the church can be promoted effectively as I participate in the meetings of Evangelical and Reformed ministers in various areas of the Synod.

The time spent in planning for and conducting the Fall Meetings in the three areas of Synod proves very productive. This year the representatives of the Board of International Missions, the Board of Pensions and Relief, and the Women's Guild presented the advance program very effectively.

Respectfully submitted,

Frederick D. Eyster

Frederick D. Eyster
President of Potomac Synod

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE READING SYNOD
to the
GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED CHURCH

Dear Fathers and Brethren

In seeking to direct, supervise and promote the work of the Church in Reading Synod, the following procedures were followed:

1. Directed Every-Congregation Visitation in Synod, assisting the Committee on United Promotion.

2. Arranged for two ecumenical dinners within Synod and attended three as representative of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, outside of Synod.

3. Directed strategy on Union Churches in our Synod, assisting the Committee on Town and Country Churches.

4. Arranged with Committee on National Missions for Self-Study of Greater Reading Area of churches. With Dr. John H. Shope and Reverend Shirley Greene planned for a pilot project of Self-Study of the entire Synod in 1958.

5. Visited thirty-four consistories and met with all committees of Synod, presenting and undergirding the Advance Program.

6. Selected with the Committee on National Missions a site for future development of a new mission within Synod.

7. Arranged with Reverend Theodore Gregg of Lebanon, Connecticut, Chairman of the Committee on Town and Country Churches of the State Conference of Congregational Christian Churches in Connecticut, the exchange of twenty of our rural pastors and their people in the month of October. About two hundred members of Synod and their pastors participated in this exchange. It has been one of the most effective devices of making the United Church of Christ important at the "grass roots."

8. Served on the Committee of Solicitation, Collection and Distribution, of the United Church of Christ.

9. Secretary of the State Council of Churches and a member of the Executive Committee.

10. Served on Institutional Committee of the Greater Reading Council of Churches pertaining to Chaplaincy Program.

Respectfully submitted

Paul T. Slinghoff

January, 1958

Report of the President of Southeast Ohio Synod to the General Council of the Evangelical and Reformed Church (for the year 1957).

In seeking to "direct, supervise and promote" the work of our Evangelical and Reformed Church in Southeast Ohio Synod, I have sought to direct my efforts in four areas:

1. As a counselor and pastor to the pastors, ministers widows, consistories and church councils of Synod.
2. As counselor with local committees on Church and Ministry, assisted in filling vacancies and providing supply pastors during vacancies. I have interviewed most of our students under the care of Synod. I have sought to recruit young people to full time Christian service.
3. I, as administrator and executive of the Synod, have met with committees of Synod and auxiliary organizations of Synod as I have had opportunity. I have sought to clarify and unify the total program of the church. Especially, I have endeavored to promote association and fellowship between the Evangelical and Reformed people and the Congregational Christian people of our area, looking forward to our complete reorganization as the United Church of Christ.
4. As representative of our Synod to city, area, and state meetings and conferences - both denominational and interdenominational. From June 1, 1957 to June 1, 1958 I am serving as Chairman of the Synod Presidents in Ohio and have represented our denomination to various meetings called by the Ohio Council of Churches.

In endeavoring to carry out the above purposes I find I have kept the following appointments:

1. I preached 36 sermons and took part in 14 other worship services. I have had seven other speaking engagements.
2. My personal interviews with pastors, pastor's wives and widows have totaled 80. This figure includes visits I have made and visits made by individuals to my office.
3. I have attended 10 area meetings, 13 state meetings and 5 national meetings.
4. I have attended and participated in 14 Synodical meetings, 8 meetings of the Synodical Council and 20 meetings of the committees of Synod and auxiliary organizations of Synod. I assisted the United Promotion Committee in planning for and carrying out an Every Congregation Visitation. As this was late in the year, final reports are not in, but more than seventy percent of the congregations of Synod were included in this visitation. Four Consistorial Conferences were planned and carried out. Stewardship, Lay Organization and the work of the Church and Ministry Committee were emphasized. More than 250 consistory and council members attended.
5. I have attended and participated in 8 congregational meetings and 47 meetings with consistories and/or local Church and Ministry Committees.
6. Special attention has been given to the Pioneer Larger Parish of our Synod. Five times I have met with the Parish Council and an additional three times with the ministers of this parish. I commend the Board of National Missions, especially the Town and Country Department, and the Board of Christian Education and Publication for the assistance they have given in this experimental work.

In as much as I am living in my native county and the county where I served as pastor for 15 years, my counsel has been sought by various civic groups such as The Court of Domestic Relations, Juvenile Court, YMCA, Boy Scouts, etc. My calendar shows I kept 10 appointments with such groups.

I would like to thank the Boards, Commissions, Agencies, and the Committees of the Church for their cooperation with me in the carrying out the work of my office.

Respectfully submitted,

Arthur Harsh Harsh

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF SOUTHERN SYNOD
TO THE GENERAL COUNCIL - 1957

The work of the Evangelical and Reformed Church has been directed, supervised and promoted in Southern Synod by the President as follows:

1. All but two of the Churches of the Synod have been visited since becoming President of the Synod two and one-half years ago. I have met with a number of the Committees of Synod in an advisory capacity. Advised with the Committee on National Missions on the organization of a new congregation. This congregation was organized on November 3, 1957 in Winston-Salem, N. C. with forty-one members. The every congregation visitation that was not completed last year was completed early this year. Close cooperation has been given all Committees of Synod.

2. The President preached forty times during the year. 35 of these services in Churches of the Synod, 5 outside. He also made twenty-two addresses within the Synod on various occasions.

3. He made twenty-five visits to Churches and ministers and called more than fifteen times on ill ministers.

4. Planned two United Church of Christ Fellowship Dinners with the Southern Convention Superintendent. The two dinners had an attendance of 450.

5. Set up program for Fall Meeting of Synod which had an attendance of 300. The Commission on Evangelism, The Board of Business Management and The Board of National Missions had representatives present and bringing messages.

6. Had over a hundred conferences with ministers, students, consistories, and Church and Ministry Committees.

7. Arranged for regular pulpit supply for the six vacant congregations within the bounds of Synod.

8. Edited twenty-two issues of"The Standard" which goes into every home in Southern Synod.

9. Represented the denomination at various inter-denominational meetings during the year.

10. Met with the Committee on Church and Ministry and the students for the ministry in connection with the annual Christmas Dinner, provided by the Synod, and addressed the group.

Respectfully submitted,

H. A. Fesperman

H. A. Fesperman, President
SOUTHERN SYNOD.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF SOUTH INDIANA SYNOD FOR 1957

TO THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED CHURCH

In directing and supervising the work of the Church in South Indiana Synod, I have sought to carry the Advance Program into all areas of our Life and Work. A Program of Advance for the Synod, called FAITH IN ACTION, was presented to the Synod and unanimously adopted. It specifically called for special emphasis in the areas of Stewardship, Evangelism, and Life Enlistment.

Beginning with our Every Congregation Visitation in September, 35,000 of our people participated in the Sector Stewardship Program culminating in the ADVANCE CALL on November 10.

A special period of emphasis on Evangelism began January 1, and will close on Pentecost Sunday when each Church is encouraged to have a special service of reception for adults. In preparation for this Program our Louisville Churches last year engaged in a pilot project and during the season of Lent a net gain of 453 was recorded.

Through Retreats, Conferences, Camps, personal contacts, and materials from the Commission on Church and Ministry, we hope to encourage many youth of our Synod to enter FULL TIME CHRISTIAN SERVICE.

New activity and interest is manifest among the Churches issuing forth in the establishment of branch churches, daughter churches, and relocation and uniting projects. A zeal is present in the hearts of our people to do Christian Service which is marked by the fact that the Evansville area will proceed to raise funds for their Good Samaritan Home, while Louisville is supporting the Protestant Orphanage there as well as cooperating in the building of a General Hospital with the Methodist Church.

We are very near the goal of paying our apportionment in full for 1957, which, if we succeed, will be the first time such an accomplishment has been attained during the first year of a triennium.

We are cooperating with the Congregational Christian Churches as opportunity is afforded by sending and inviting Fraternal Delegates to meetings. We are giving financial assistance to help develop facilities at Merom Institute, looking forward to the day when this may serve as a Camping and Conference Center for the area within a 150 mile radius.

This has been an exciting and successful year for our Synod, but I must say that what we have accomplished has been possible because of the untiring work and zeal of our Pastors in the field, and the willingness of our individual members, as stewards, to work with the many talents and blessings God has bestowed upon them. My feeling can be summed up by paraphrasing the words of one of our poets: "My! Aint God good to (South) Indiana!".

Respectfully Submitted,

Harry W. Bredeweg

Harry W. Bredeweg, President

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF SOUTHWEST OHIO SYNOD

To General Council — Evangelical and Reformed Church

Covering Year 1957

Dear Members:

During the year of 1957, it has been my responsibility to continue as President of Southwest Ohio Synod, and to direct my activity as outlined in By-Law 62, page 27 and 28 of the Constitution and By-Laws. I have tried to fulfill these duties.

The past year I fulfilled seventy-six engagements on Sunday where sixty-one sermons or addresses were given. There has been an average of eight vacancies during the year, and Councils/Consistories have been visited in an effort to guide and counsel with helpful advice. Having an office in an office building down-town, many ministers have come for private conversations. Many other meetings were held with groups in the local congregations.

In January, area Advance Visitations were made to all congregations of the Synod, with more than 350 people in attendance. The second area Advance Visitation schedule is set-up and congregations will be revisited in January 1958.

The Synodical Council met eleven times during 1957 and all actions reported to the Synod by means of a Synodical News Letter which is mailed each month to the Minister and Secretary of each Congregation.

In this Synodical Letter the information and suggestions coming to me from General Council, the President of the Church, the Boards and Agencies, also is relayed to the congregations. By such means, I feel the Synod is kept fully informed.

It was also my privilege to represent the Evangelical and Reformed Church to the Conference Superintendents of the Congregational Christian Churches at their meeting at Buck Hill Falls last January. It is also a pleasure to serve on the Committee for the Solicitation, Collection and Distribution of Funds according to the Basis of Union for the United Church of Christ. Two meetings have been held since the Uniting General Synod. Three meetings, consisting of five days, have been held with the staff of the Ohio Conference to plan united work in the State of Ohio.

In new Missions, one church, seventy years old, was added as a mission church and called a full-time minister for the first time in more than forty years.

In cooperation with the other three Ohio Synods, much time was given and several meetings were held for the establishment of a camp in Ohio, and the proposal of Branch Homes for the Aged. The Camp will have campers during the summer of 1958.

Respectively Submitted,

Clarence K. Gebhart

1957 - ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF SOUTH WISCONSIN SYNOD

To the General Council of the Evangelical and Reformed Church:

In directing, supervising and promoting the work of the Evangelical and Reformed Church in South Wisconsin Synod I can report the following:

1. During the months of January and February, with special Training Schools preceding, the EVERY CONGREGATION VISITATION as outlined by the Department of United Promotion, was carried out in 70 of our 77 congregations. Eighteen teams of composed of a pastor and layman or laywoman made the Visitations; I personally participated in 10 of these. The Program of the Advance was thoroughly presented and discussed, and generally accpeted and adopted by the several congregations.

2. The Spring Synod meeting was also utilized to the fullest to present and promote the denominational program, aided by preence and effctive witness of Mr. Joseph Wetzel from the General Council.

3. In the month of October we helped in planning and arranging three area Fellowship Dinner meetings for the United Church of Christ, and participated on the program of each. Over 600 people attended these meetings. The films "The Youngest Church" and "On the Threshold" have been and are now being used by individual congregations in their own communities.

4. Closely linked with the Advance Program of the denomination, South Wisconsin Synod at its Spring Meeting voted for a United Synodical Appeal for eight Benevolent and Educational Institutions and National Missions, with a Challenge to our congregations for $80,000 over and above the Apportionment and World Service, for 1958. In this United Appeal the denominational program is given equal emphasis.

5. Of interest to the denomination, I am sure, is the Group Insurance Plan, combining Blue Shield and Blue Cross and a $2,000 Life Insurance Policy with double Indemnity, for our pastors. One half of the premium is paid by the member pastors and the other half is paid on a 25¢ per capita basis by the member congregations. To date we have over 50 of our pastors with their congregations enrolled, effective as of January 1, 1958. We feel that this plan should find wider adoption by other Synods and eventually the entire denomination. (A copy of the complete plan is available from my office.)

6. Much of my time was also spent in planning and conducting the three Fall Regional Conferences, where special emphasis was given to Christian Education and Higher Education, Stewardship and Church and Ministry. Each of these meetimgs was attended by over 125 pastors and lay-leaders.

6. In addition to the many preaching engagements, visitations and counseling with church boards and synodical committees, much time was also given to meetings with the Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Council of Churches and the office of the Wisconsin Congregational Conference. In the latter case various joint projects are planned viz. Miniters Retreat and Youth Camps; Student Work at Madison, and other Colleges has been carried on unitedly for some time.

Respectfully submitted,

P. C. Kehle.

Paul C. Kehle, President.

Annual Report to the General Council
Texas Synod

John G. Mueller, President

As in previous years, I have sought, to the best of my abilities and understanding, to "direct and supervise" the work and program of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, by---

1. Meeting with Synodical Chairmen and Committees, giving them guidance and encouragement.

2. Visiting and counselling with many Pastors and Congregations, particularly, in those instances where assistance and clarification of difficult issues were necessary.

3. Progress of the United Church of Christ was publicized in local congregations, regional meetings and among pastors.

4. The Texas Synod Herald, which goes into approximately twenty-four hundred homes, has again been edited each month, with the primary purpose of promotion and giving information relating to the work of Synod Committees and the Denomination.

5. One new Mission Congregation has been established, and Regional Committees are being established for the purpose of studying possible new sites. A study has been made in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and a new Mission Congregation will be established there during 1958.

6. An honest attempt has been made to reduce the number of congregations receiving National Missions subsidy, which has been an exceedingly unhealthy situation for many years.

My one regret is that apparently the Advance for this triennium has not noticeably inspired our pastors and congregations. Perhaps the fault lies with the Synod President, who, himself, did not "dare" enough in its promotion.

Respectfully submitted,
John G. Mueller

WEST NEW YORK SYNOD
Buffalo - New York

Annual Report of the President to the General Council of the Evangelical and Reformed Church - For the year 1957.

Dear Brethren in Christ:

(1) The President of Synod has met with all the committees of the Synod and with the cabinets and boards related to the Synod whenever possible. The chairmen of the committees have kept in touch with the synod office and often requested information and guidance as to policy and program. We have been able to do a better job at correlation. Our office has been a great help to the committees by providing staff work in organizing clinics, visitations and channels of communication by means of bulletins, letters, cards and newspaper publicity. The president has given considerable assistance to the committees on United Promotion, National Missions, Church and Ministry, Christian Social Action and Christian Education. A Planning Conference of committee chairmen and presidents of organizations is held each fall with members of the synodical council.

(2) As in previous years I have found my relationship and ministry to pastors, congregations, consistories and lay leaders a constant and happy opportunity to inspire and unite the churches for a more effective ministry to their communities and to the world as they availed themselves of the helps, materials and suggestions provided by the boards and commissions of our Church. Our daily prayer is that the Holy Spirit may grant wisdom, courage and faith to pastors and congregations and use them as willing channels of God's grace unto men. I cherish the privilege which is mine to worship with the congregation on Sundays as I visit the churches. I usually preach the sermon while the pastor is in charge of the service. Perhaps still more productive are the small group conferences with consistories and local church cabinets where the president can entertain questions in a more informal relationship. Many churches are unaware of their need for a self-study or are unwilling to look at the facts and the future.

(3) The Boards and Commissions have provided splendid materials which are being used more extensively by the local church. Stewardship and Kingdom Roll Call helps, bulletins, charts, booklets, audio-visual productions, the Messenger and zonal representatives have informed and inspired individuals and congregations to give a greater witness to Christ and the Gospel.

(4) The president of the synod is often called upon to represent the denomination and the denominations through the Council of Churches at meetings within and outside Church circles. He is serving as a vice-president of both the New York State Council of Churches and the Council of Churches of Buffalo and Erie County. He has participated in many meetings with the Congregational Christian Conference of New York State and its Associations. Several projects and programs were planned and held jointly: Pulpit Exchange, Kingdom Roll Call Clinics, Fellowship Nights, Christian Education Workshops and Staff Conferences. The Synod office is recognized and used as the office of communication by newspapers, churches and organizations.

(5) Our immediate major need is pastors for our vacant pulpits. Most of them are in small churches.

With gratitude to God for His and your help, we seek his blessing upon our ministry as co-workers in His Kingdom.

Julius W. Kuck, president
West New York Synod

WEST COAST AREA - EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED CHURCH - PRESIDENT'S REPORT - 1957

To review 1957 briefly, I should like to report to General Council something of activities in four general areas of responsibility assigned to me.

In the area of Church administration: I have attended all meetings of the Councils of both our West Coast Synods and shared with the Synod Presidents the concern to implement the denominational "Advance" as well as to improve routine synodical program. .....In this connection we rejoice over the generally high morale and enthusiastic spirit abroad in the California Synod. By contrast, the Pacific Northwest Synod has this year suffered a serious slump in morale because of far reaching effects of disaffection and separation on the part of several congregations. However, there too, by virtue of excellent progress of one new mission church and considerable progress in two or three other congregations, the picture begins to brighten. .....President Wagner's first visit to the Area, at the time of Spring Meetings, and various expressions of helpful concern have been much appreciated. .....A growing feature in this area of operation is the matter of planning and program coordination with our C. C. neighbors. Two meetings of West Coast C. C. Superintendents and E. & R. Presidents to explore possibilities of closer fellowship were held. Co-president Fred Hoskins shared one of these. Two more such meetings are scheduled for 1958. .....It was my privilege to attend the Uniting General Synod and the annual Presidents' Meeting.

As second among my assignments, I think of visitation among the churches and ministers. Gracious invitations have been extended to share various festival occasions. Beyond participation in services, I have sought opportunities for conferences with Consistories and Committies on Church and Ministry - particularly in situations in which special problems have arisen. At least some success in tying our scattered fellowship a bit more closely together is indicated. .....This visitation, coupled with with attendance at conferences, etc., kept me on tour 140 days in 1957 (in San Francisco office, including numerous Bay Area field trips, 198 days; vaca tion 27 days). It afforded me opportunity to deliver 36 sermons and 6 special addresses in addition to va rious Synod Meeting presentations, etc. It was possible to accept only a few of the increasing number of invitations to visit in Congregational churches in the Area.

In the area of Church Extension I have again attended all meetings of the Mission Committees of both Synods and spent major effort on exploring new mission opportunities. Southern California continues to yield the largest number of allocations. Recently, however, we have been assigned several challenging new allocations in N. Calif. and Oregon. In Washington we hold one undeveloped allocation and are in line for early additional assignments. Developing such and representing our co-operative community interest calls for investment of considerable time in Council of Churches' activities in the Area. .....In keeping with the tremendous westward trend of population movement, our denomination must extend its missionary effort on the West Coast. Only thus can we bring our best to the United Church of Christ and prove ours to be a nation-wide concern and fellowship. We happily note that several of our mission churches are moving to self support at the end of 1957 and we express appreciation for the continued strong support of the Board of National Missions.

Promotion of denominational program has been a fourth area of activity to which I have directed my effort. This was my concern in all visitation and much correspondence. It would seem, however, that best results were achieved in making arrangements for and conducting a series of Consistorial Conferences covering the

Area early in the year, and the Every Congregation Visitation in the last quarter. In both of these the Department of United Promotion rendered excellent service. In the first, through the helpful leadership of Dr. Perry Smith, and in the latter through travel assistance which made possible our getting visitors to most distant points in P. N. W. Synod. .....New emphases and procedures introduced in the Every Congregation Visitation were well received and call for repetition in the program of the Dept. of United Promotion. .....Another good promotional "assist" was provided in the visit of Dr. Reginald Helfferich. His participation in important meetings of the Councils of Churches and his presentation of the challenge of World Service has definitely aided this most worthy cause and gained recognition for our fellowship in wide interdenominational circles. .....Publishing the quarterly WEST COAST AREA BULLETIN, arranging intinerary and various assistance for denominational visitors in the Area, and participating as leader in the West Coast C. C. - E. & R. Social Action Institute are among other activities which afforded me additional promotional opportunities.

T. H. Van Dyck, President.

Financial Report Year ending December 31, 1957.

Opening Balance, January 1, 1957			$ 1401.99
Income:			
Partial 1956 P.N.W. subsidy paid in 1957	$ 367.00		
Designated for West Coast Area Bulletin	93.50		
Received from Barosin Picture Exhibit	50.00		
Miscellaneous Income - Insurance refund, etc.	23.19		
1957 California Synod Subsidy	1842.00		
1957 Pacific Northwest Synod Subsidy	915.50		
* 1957 Regular Denominational Subsidy	2500.00		
* 1957 Additional Denominational Subsidy	6442.52		12238.71
Total		$	13640.70
Disbursements:			
President's Salary	6000.00		
" Annuity	480.00		
" Housing	1200.00		
" Travel Account	1638.15		
Office Expense:			
Rental	480.00		
Secretary's Salary	469.98		
Telephone	177.29		
Taxes, Insurance, and Bond	138.66		
Barosin Picture Shipment	185.75		
Travel for W. C. A. Council Members	251.35		
Mimeograph	125.00		
Other	265.72		
West Coast Area Bulletin	534.16		11946.06
* Closing Balance, Dec. 31, 1957		$	1694.64

* These items include amounts advanced by Mr. Kenk as denominational subsidy for 1958.

Allen B. Lindsley, Treasurer.